Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you think DPS officers escorting AG Edward T. Buckingham and his wife to the airport was proper?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

People retiring today are part of the first generation of workers who have paid more in Social Security taxes during their careers than they will receive in benefits after they retire. It's a historic shift that will only get worse for future retirees, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. ➤ PAGE 13

NATION

An unidentified gunman killed six people at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee on Sunday in a rampage that left terrified congregants hiding in closets and others texting friends outside for help. The suspect was killed outside the temple in a shootout with police officers. ➤ PAGE 14

E Land acquires Palms Resort in $20M asset sale. PAGE 3
Kilili asks US Air Force to put divert airfield on Tinian. PAGE 5

Wiseman issues $50K bench warrant for Buckingham

Buckingham

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» OPA files 2 more criminal charges vs AG

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued yesterday a bench warrant for the arrest of Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham for not appearing in court despite penal summons served on him by an FBI special agent.

Wiseman imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham. He determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's lawful penal summons.

As this developed, the Office of Public Auditor yesterday filed an amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham.

The new charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and

See WARRANT on Page 4

Fitial thought about firing Pai as public auditor

» Governor mum on Buckingham, DPS 'airport incident'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Pai

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday he thought about firing public auditor Michael Pai whom he accused of having a personal ax to grind with Attorney General Buckingham, now a subject of a bench warrant and a $50,000 cash bail for not appearing in court despite penal summons

See AUDITOR on Page 4

A COMPLETE SLATE

Dr. Ignacia Demapan, right, and Republican Party of the CNMI Association president Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, submit nomination petitions and documents to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero, left, yesterday morning. Demapan is the Republican Party's candidate for CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and she is so far the only one challenging incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in the Nov. 6 elections.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

◄ See story on Page 2

5,347 CW permits issued, as groups set 1-month vigil to oppose transition extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has so far approved the Commonwealth-only worker petitions for 5,347 foreign workers, even as worker groups in the CNMI have set a one-month vigil to oppose the extension of the transitional worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014. The worker groups are asking instead for a grant of improved status to long-term legal aliens before the end of 2014.

Close to 12,000 foreign workers are covered by total CW-1 petitions filed with USCIS.

But there were also some 3,000 request for evidence issued, and the information requested need to be submitted before USCIS could make a final decision on the CW-1 petitions.

USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts said yesterday

See VIGIL on Page 4

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Local

GOP's Demapan files delegate candidacy

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, president of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association, joins party candidates, members, and supporters outside the Commonwealth Election Commission after the filing of nomination petitions and documents yesterday.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and members of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association in full force, Dr. Ignacia Demapan filed her candidacy for CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday.

Demapan is so far the only one challenging incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), who filed his nomination petition and documents with the Commonwealth Election Commission last July 9.

Fitial, at the same time, said the Republican Party which he chairs has a complete slate of 24 candidates for the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

These include one for delegate, three for Rota, Tinian, and Saipan senatorial seats, and 20 for the House of Representatives seats on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"We have something going good for the Commonwealth," Fitial said shortly after turning all documents to the Election Commission yesterday morning. "The fact that we are now associated with the Republican National Committee in the states, we can safely say that if [Mitt] Romney becomes the president, and if the [U.S.] Senate, if the Republicans control the Senate, then the Commonwealth will be in better hands. So that's the only reason why I'm urging the people to vote for a team—a team that has good relationship with the federal government. And I believe this team is the Republican Party."

Fitial went back to the Republican Party in January 2011. Months later, he became its president again, the way he did for more than 10 years prior to forming his own Covenant Party to support his gubernatorial candidacy.

The governor and Demapan spoke of "teamwork" for the GOP to win this year's races.

The last day for filing nomination petitions and documents, along with legislative initiatives, is tomorrow.

Prior to the filing, Demapan said Republican Party members are filing their candidacies all at once and "as a team."

"My message to the voters is that I am here to give a different look to our U.S. delegate office and I feel that I can be really strong and represent the people of the CNMI in the U.S. Congress. I will not be afraid because there are many issues that need to be worked out so I do hope that people of the CNMI will give me their vote of confidence so that I can work for them," she told reporters.

GOP candidates

Besides Demapan as delegate candidate, the Republicans also have the following senatorial candidates: incumbent Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan), former representative Victor Hocog for Rota, and former representative Joaquin "Jack" Borja for Tinian.

Former Rota mayor Joseph Inos is advisor for and staunch supporter of Hocog and his running mate, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota). Inos is the brother of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, now the titular head of the Covenant Party.

The GOP's House representative candidate for Tinian is former representative Edwin Aldan.

For House seats in Precinct 1, the six Republican candidates are incumbents House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), along with Richard Seman, Vicente "Ben" Cabrera, Ray Dela Cruz, and Joe Limes.

Precinct 2 GOP candidates are Eric Atalig and Liana Hofschneider.

The six Precinct 3 candidates are incumbent House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Roy Rios, Joe P. Saures, Jesus Castro, David Maratita, and former representative Juan Reyes.

Reyes, a former secretary of Public Works, said he will be focusing on the economy. He said if he wins, he will propose that the 2 percent developer's tax will be used to improve the infrastructure in the area where the investment that paid the developer's tax is located instead of having that tax go back to the general fund.

GOP's Precinct 4 candidates are incumbents House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan).

Precinct 5 also has the two incumbents: Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Most of the Republican candidates and party members and supporters were wearing red as they crowded the Commonwealth Election Commission office and grounds yesterday.

Also in the crowd were former governor and now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, Lands and Natural Resources secretary Arnold I. Palacios, Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair and businessman Joe Lifoifoi, CPA executive director Ed Guerrero, Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, other Cabinet members, and government employees.

RNC national convention

Fitial said he and eight other Republicans from the CNMI are all set to go to the Republican National Convention in Florida later this month, reiterating that Romney will get all the nine delegate votes from the Commonwealth.

He said this is the biggest contingency from the CNMI to attend a Republican National Convention.

"We'll be there, Aug. 26, that's the welcoming ceremony," he said.

Fitial showed a letter that RNC chair Reince Priebus sent, thanking him for all the support he has provided to the presidential campaign committee. The governor also showed a Romney CD, "Anything is Possible," that Priebus also sent him.

"This is relationship. Not only he sent his son, he also sent his brother-in-law," Fitial said, referring to Rod Davies, whom Fitial said came here "almost two months ago."

Romney's son Matt and wife were on Saipan during the Republican caucus. It was the first time that a presidential campaign set foot on CNMI soil, Republicans said.

"The fact that he sent his son and brother-in-law is a very strong indication that he cares for us… You heard Romney when his some came up to the house. He said, 'governor if I'm blessed and become president of the United States, I will never forget you'…. That's what he said," Fitial added.

The nine delegates from the CNMI to the RNC convention will shoulder their expenses, the governor added.

Fitial added that the RNC will also provide to the local party some funds.

"Not yet but they will," he said. "I'm very close to the chairman. Every time Angel [Demapan] and I go to Washington, we go and relax at his office."

'Independent Republicans'

Prior to the Republicans filing their candidacies, a group which calls themselves "Independent Republicans" also filed their candidacies yesterday.

Their chair, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and vice chair/former representative and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, led the team.

Benavente, also chair of the IRs' Precinct 1, said there were 11 IR candidates that filed their candidacies: One for Saipan senator, and 10 for House Saipan seats.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) is the Independent Republicans' senatorial candidate for Saipan.

The Precinct 1 IR candidates are: incumbents House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), along with Mario Taitano and Roman Benavente.

The Precinct 3 candidates from the IR group are incumbents Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), along with Ralph Yumul and Tony Benavente.

For Precinct 5, the IR candidates are Larry Deleon Guerrero and Antonio Agulto.

Benavente said the other precinct seats are filled with candidates from the Covenant Party.

The Covenant Party and the Independent Republicans have formed an alliance.

Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Googolf Saipan-da! Cup

The **Googolf Saipan-dan! Cup** was scheduled to be held on Aug. 4, 2012, **at Laurel Hita Country Club** in Oita, Japan.

The event was organized by **Googolf**, an online site providing golf information in the Kyushu region.

The grand prize was a pair of Fukuoka-Saipan tickets on United Airlines, three nights stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan and a round of golf at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

The course clubhouse displayed promotional posters of the Northern Mariana Island and played the islands' destination DVD beginning on July 1, 2012. The Marianas Visitors Authority also offered Saipan-da! backpacks as prizes. Marianas golf guidebooks and Saipan-da! stickers were also provided for all participants.

As of the latest available statistics of May 2012, 13 percent of all visitors from Japan indicated golf as being one of their travel plans while in the Northern Marianas.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

E Land acquires Palms Resort in $20M asset sale

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. yesterday disclosed that all its stake in Palms Resort Saipan has been sold through an asset sale in the tune of $20 million.

UMDA chair Jose Lifoifoi confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the hotel's new owner, E Land Park, also absorbed Palm Resort's engineers and maintenance staff who are currently taking care of the facility.

Lifoifoi described the "negotiations" as not easy as it took several months to finalize.

When asked about how the asset sale decision was reached by the association, Lifoifoi admitted that despite aggressive efforts to find investor-partners to continue the planned renovation, UMDA failed to get potential partners.

» New management absorbs hotel's engineers, maintenance staff

UMDA, he admitted, also has no expertise and experience in running a hotel which was also a factor in the board's decision.

For Lifoifoi, the asset sale was a sound decision for the association. The sale, he said, included Paupau Terrace, dormitories, and interest in Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply Co. Ltd.

It was in 2008 when UMDA acquired the former Nikko Hotel following the pullout of Japan Airlines operation in the CNMI and the continuous decline of tourists from the Japan market.

According to Lifoifoi, UMDA acquired the 313-room facility for $3 million and spent millions of dollars in numerous developments and renovations.

Lifoifoi said UMDA is confident that with the proven expertise of E Land Group, Palms Resort will be in a better direction and growth. E Land Park is one of the many subsidiaries of E Land Group of Companies operating in China and South Korea.

The chairman revealed that the new management will revitalize and renovate the hotel simultaneously with that of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, which was also acquired by E Land Park.

E Land Group acquired these two major resorts in Saipan to expand its international corporate hunt from fashion brands to resorts.

Based on online articles, E Land Group acquired Highla Condo in 2006 and Corea Condo in 2009, becoming Korea's No. 3 in the leisure business after Daemyung and Hanwha.

E Land Group also took over a theme park in Daegu and a company that operates boats on the Han River.

In the fashion business, E Land Group has acquired a number of foreign fashion brands in recent years including Italy's Mandarina Duck, Belfe, Peter Scott, and Lario.

'Judge Wiseman to seek 2nd retention election'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, the first non-indigenous judge to capture a retention election, will submit again to the retention election on Nov. 6, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

A reliable Judiciary source disclosed that today, Tuesday, Wiseman will file his notice of intent to be on the ballot for retention at the Commission on Election in Susupe.

Saipan Tribune contacted Wiseman for comment, but he could not be reached.

Wiseman is currently the longest serving judge in the Superior Court. He will be 12 years serving on the bench in March 2013.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has appointed Wiseman for 10 consecutive years as a designated judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Wiseman's first six-year term as a judge expired in March 2007. In November 2005, voters retained him to serve as a judge until March 2013.

Also up for this year's retention election are acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate judge Perry B. Inos.

Castro and Inos have yet to confirm whether they are interested to seek retention.

Suspended lawyer Atalig waives preliminary hearing

Suspended lawyer Antonio M. Atalig yesterday waived his right to have a preliminary hearing in connection with his arrest on charges that he assaulted his two minor children and threatened to kill them and their mother.

Chief Public Defender, counsel for Atalig, informed Superior Court acting presiding judge David A. Wiseman about the defendant's position to waive his right to a preliminary hearing.

Wiseman granted Atalig's request.

Atalig was brought to court, but the judge allowed him to stay in the court's holding area as Hardwicke made the representation.

A preliminary hearing refers to a court proceeding in which a judge determines whether there is a sufficient evidence to hold a defendant for trial.

At the hearing, the judge must decide whether there is probable cause to believe that the crime was committed and that a defendant may have committed the crime.

Police arrested Atalig last July 29 on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, child abuse, and disturbing the peace.

Atalig has been in detention for failing to post a $25,000 cash bail.

On Friday, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho denied Atalig's request to accept suspended lawyer Reynaldo Yana and Atalig's sister-in-law Nelida Atalig as his third-party custodians. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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AUDITOR

From Page 1

served on him by an FBI special agent.

But the governor is not commenting on issues involving Buckingham and Department of Public Safety officers who allegedly attempted to shield the AG from being served a summons at the airport on Saturday morning, an incident that has been drawing flak and calls for investigation from government officials and ordinary citizens.

"No comment," the governor said, when asked by *Saipan Tribune* whether he asked that the AG be escorted by DPS police officers at the airport.

Pai, when asked for comment on the governor's statement yesterday, told *Saipan Tribune* that he is "referring it to OPA legal counsel, Mr. George Hasselback, as this is related to the case I have recused myself from."

The public auditor also referred to Hasselback a similar request for comment on Sunday, after the governor issued a statement saying that his biggest regret in life is appointing Pai as public auditor.

The governor appointed both Pai and Buckingham, and could also fire them.

"That follows logic right?" Fitial said. Earlier on, he said, "I don't know whether I have that authority. I'll find out."

When yesterday's chance interview again touched on Buckingham, Fitial said "No comment."

Fitial only confirmed talking to Buckingham about the AG's decision to withdraw his resignation notice on Sunday. He also said Buckingham was in San Francisco, California when he last spoke to him.

The governor said he is happy that Buckingham withdrew his notice of resignation as AG, a decision that Fitial accepted.

The governor said he had a contingency plan had Buckingham decided not to withdraw his resignation on Sunday. He was referring to a possible replacement for Buckingham.

But he said Buckingham stays on as CNMI attorney general. He, however, doesn't have any idea yet when the AG will be back on Saipan.

While the governor was at the Commonwealth Election Commission in Susupe yesterday morning to file nomination petitions and documents related to the candidacies of Republican Party of the CNMI Association which he chairs, a few meters away—in the Superior Court—a judge was issuing a bench warrant for Buckingham's arrest for not showing up in court despite penal summons served shortly before his 6am flight departed for Narita, Japan on Saturday.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman also imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Buckingham. The Fitial administration is still mum as to whether CNMI taxpayers will pay for the $50,000 cash bail.

"I don't have anything to say on that. I don't know anything so," Fitial said, when asked about the bench warrant and $50,000 cash bail.

OPA's criminal charges against Buckingham are in connection with the AG's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's gathering at the governor's house in August 2010 and the award of a $400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract, among other things.

OPA amended yesterday the complaint against Buckingham for obstruction of justice and misconduct in public office.

The Fitial administration said OPA's charges against Buckingham stemmed from a gathering held at the governor's residence and a sole-source contract awarded to Integrated Professionals Solution, and both of these issues date back to 2010. He had said it is "increasingly suspicious that OPA could not come up with charges over a two-year period, but once Buckingham announced his resignation, charges were filed within two days."

VIGIL

From Page 1

that from Oct. 7, 2011 through July 31, 2012, "a total of 3,254 petitions were approved consisting of 5,347 beneficiaries."

She said there were also a total of 101 petitions denied, consisting of 123 beneficiaries.

Sebrechts said the denials include the following reasons: Withdrawal of petition; absence of evidence that the petitioner (employer) meets one of the eligibility requirements; absence of evidence that the beneficiary (worker) was lawfully present in the CNMI at the time of filing; and abandonment, wherein the petitioner or employer did not respond to a USCIS request for evidence in the allotted time frame of 12 weeks.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI said yesterday that he hopes that more CW permits will be issued soon.

USCIS has issued approximately 3,000 RFEs for I-129CW petitions for two reasons.

Sebrechts said "some petitioners did not include documentation showing that they are doing business, that they have considered all available U.S. workers for the job position, and/or that they are offering employment that is consistent with the nature of their business."

Some did not include evidence of the beneficiary's lawful presence in the CNMI, she said.

"Some of these requests are still outstanding. It is not possible to make a final decision on these petitions until the employer provides a response," Sebrechts said.

She clarified that processing time doesn't get shorter or longer.

"Our officers cannot adjudicate a petition until they have all the information, which includes the results of biometrics and the needed evidence. What I said is that we are able to move forward on processing applications now that the biometrics were captured and results are coming in on so many of the petitions and that we have received responses to more than 50 percent of the RFEs. However, the pace of the final adjudication (approval or denial) is largely dependent upon the petitioner's responsiveness to our requests for evidence," the USCIS regional media manager said.

She also said USCIS will continue to find solutions for situations within the possibility of immigration law as they have demonstrated.

Meanwhile, United Workers Movement-NMI and other worker groups plan to hold a one-month vigil starting on Aug. 15, to oppose the extension of the transition period.

Syed said the peaceful vigil will be held in front of the USCIS office in Garapan.

"During the vigil, we will also invite workers to sign petition and letters to the secretaries of the U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Interior Department, Gov. Benigno Fitial, and our delegate Kilili Sablan, requesting them to consider our position—that we are not supporting an extension of the transition period. What we're asking is grant of improved status by Dec. 31, 2014," Syed said.

The Fitial administration and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, among other entities, support extending the transition period, citing the CNMI's continued need to have access to foreign workers because there are still not much U.S. workers available to help run the tourism-based economy.

WARRANT

From Page 1

misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Friday and Saturday.

Wiseman noted that assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich, who appeared at the hearing as counsel for Bunkingham, characterized the case as novel.

"I am elevating the characterization of novel to bizarre," said Wiseman, drawing laughter from many people mostly lawyers who watched the proceeding.

Wiseman said he does not find any justifiable excuse for Buckingham not appearing in court.

The Superior Court issued penal summons on Friday, ordering Buckingham to appear in court yesterday after the CNMI government, through OPA, filed criminal charges against him.

At yesterday's hearing, Wiseman said Birnbrich has no lawful authority to represent a criminal defendant.

OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback stated that if Buckingham requested for continuance of the hearing he would have gladly done so.

Hasselback said Buckingham's order for Birnbrich to appear as his counsel is improper and another waste of public resources.

"Buckingham is a criminal defendant," Hasselback stressed.

Hasselback said he does not believe that it is proper for the Office of the Attorney General to show up and represent a criminal defendant.

OPA filed on Friday criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with his alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's house in August 2010 and the AG's approval of a $400,000 sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act management contract in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of the latter stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

Buckingham was served with the penal summons at the airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan on 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan on Saturday.

Wiseman said he is not aware of any statute allowing the OAG to represent a defendant in a criminal case.

Hasselback said he agrees with Wiseman that the OAG has no authority to represent a criminal defendant.

Hasselback said there's no law that allows Birnbrich to "represent their boss in a criminal proceeding."

The OPA counsel said they had to call in the FBI to assist them in serving the penal summons to Buckingham.

"The only recourse for the court is to issue a bench warrant for the arrest of Buckingham," the lawyer said.

Birnbrich said Buckingham, who is still the AG, stated he would come back to Saipan to face the charges.

Birnbrich said Buckingham proceeded on his trip because he had already bought tickets for his and his wife's travel to the U.S. mainland.

Birnbrich said Buckingham understands the penal summons and the gravity of the charges.

Wiseman said penal summons is a courtesy by the government not to arrest someone.

Hasselback said in his opinion Buckingham's order directing Birnbrich to appear as his counsel at the hearing is improper and a waste of public funds.

"Buckingham by ordering the Office of the Attorney General to represent him in a criminal case…my generosity ended," Hasselback said.

Hasselback said Buckingham accepted the penal summons only because he got caught at the airport.

Wiseman said there is no question that Buckingham was served with the court's lawful order.

Wiseman then asked to see any declaration that the summons was served on Buckingham.

Hasselback apologized for not submitting such declaration. He stated that FBI special agent Haejun Park, who was in court, could testify about the summons.

Wiseman did not call Park to the witness stand, but only asked him if he told Buckingham that he should appear in court for today.

Park replied in the affirmative.

Wiseman noted there was no medical emergency or any justifiable excuse for Buckingham not appearing in court.

"The court cannot tolerate that conduct by any litigant especially if you are the Attorney General of the Commonwealth," Wiseman said.

Wiseman said it is a blatant disregard of the lawful court's penal summons.

In an interview with the media after the hearing, Hasselback said the filing of additional charges against Buckingham was about his evasion of penal summons services and misconduct in public office.

The additional two charges bring to a total of seven misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

Hasselback said the allegations that the AG used Department of Public Safety police officers in evading service of penal summons were included in the obstruction charges.

"The matter of who, did, what to help Mr. Buckingham, what time and under what authority…those are all matters under current investigation," he said.

The OPA counsel said they will be investigating what happened Friday night to Saturday morning because they believe that public funds, public personnel, and public equipment were used in the commission of crimes.

As to the question why it was FBI special agent Park who served the court's penal summons to Buckingham, Hasselback said federal agents routinely help local enforcement agencies serve process on documents like penal summons.

"In this instance it became necessary Friday evening for me to reach out and seek some help from the FBI. Thankfully they are partners to help us and Mr. Buckingham was served with this document," he said.

As to the question why the charges were filed on Friday or the day of Buckingham's supposed last day of work as AG, Hasselback said OPA has limited number of personnel but they've done their best.

"When we found out that Mr. Buckingham was leaving the CNMI presumably forever because that's what he told everyone, it become apparent that if he were permitted to leave the CNMI prior to the service of the judicial summons that he will be beyond the court's jurisdiction," he said.

Hasselback said he reviewed the evidence that they have and determined that they are enough to prove every single portion of every single charge in the information.

On how to effectuate the bench warrant since Buckingham is reportedly now in the U.S. mainland, Hasselback said logistically it is expensive to get someone back from the mainland.

"There are procedures that one has to go through," said Hasselback, adding that he has to do some research on the procedures.

On Birnbrich's appearance in court, the OPA counsel said an attorney of the OAG being ordered to show up and act as a criminal defense attorney for a criminal defendant indicates a possibility of a waste and abuse of public funds.

"And we will be investigating that too," Hasselback added.

On the additional charges, Hasselback stated in the amended information that, on or between Aug. 3, 2012 and Aug. 4, 2012, Buckingham "knowingly obstructed, resisted, and/or opposed persons duly authorized to serve process issued by the Superior Court."

Specifically, the lawyer said, the defendant, "being aware that a penal summons commanding him to appear before the court had been issued, and that he was being sought by persons who intended to effectuate service of such summons upon him, did engage in a course of conduct intended to deceive, resist, and/or otherwise prevent those persons from effectuating service upon him."

This course of action, Hasselback said, included lying about Buckingham's "whereabouts and/or directing others to lie about his whereabouts, directing subordinates to refuse to accept service of the summons at his usual place of business and/or other actions performed with the express purpose to evade the service of the aforementioned penal summons upon him.

This course of action, he said, culminated in Buckingham "seeking, suggesting, and/or accepting an armed escort consisting of members of the Department of Public Safety and/or the Commonwealth Ports Authority, operating publicly owned vehicles and being paid with public funds, that escort having the express purpose of taking Buckingham from his usual place of abode to the Saipan International Airport, through local and federal security checkpoints and ensuring that he boarded his flight away from the Commonwealth without being served a copy of the aforementioned summons."

Hasselback said Buckingham as the AG used his position and/or influence to "knowingly and willfully obstruct, resist, and/or oppose persons duly authorized to serve process issued by the Superior Court, in serving, and/or attempting to serve said process, being on notice that such actions violated provisions of the Commonwealth Criminal Code and were, therefore, illegal."

Kilili asks US Air Force to put divert airfield on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) has joined the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in asking the U.S. Air Force to use Tinian as the preferred site for an alternate airfield in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied.

Sablan, in a letter to Air Force Capt. Rebecca Heyse, said Tinian International Airport should be given preference over Saipan International Airport for six reasons, including the fact the "noise pollution would be less factor on Tinian than on Saipan."

There are multiple residential villages adjacent to the Saipan airport that would be heavily impacted by increased noise levels both from construction and from subsequent operational activities related to the project.

On Tinian, the closest residential development area is over one and a half miles away from the Tinian airport.

Sablan said the second reason is that the Tinian airport alternative would reduce potential conflicts between commercial and military activities.

He also said Tinian airport's runway could more easily be expanded to the requisite length.

The proposed action would require that the Saipan airport runway be extended from the current length of 8,700 feet to 10,075 feet.

This would require that additional land be leased from the CNMI government at a cost to the U.S. Department of Defense, and the runway extension would require prior approval by the Federal Aviation Administration for a non-standard runway.

By contrast, expansion of Tinian's airport runway from its current 8,600 feet to a requisite 10,000 feet would not require that additional land be leased from the local government.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Sablan said the fourth reason is that adverse impacts on the endangered nightingale reed warbler could be expected on Saipan.

He also said development of the Tinian alternative could have synergistic benefit for other military activities on Tinian.

Lastly, said Sablan, Tinian has the necessary lodging options to support temporary personnel.

"The people of the Northern Mariana Islands will benefit from and welcome the development of either the Saipan or Tinian alternative for the divert capabilities, humanitarian airlift, and training exercises proposed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement," Sablan told Heyse.

The Air Force, in its draft EIS, identified Saipan as the "preferred Alternative 1" and Tinian as "preferred Alternative 2" for a divert or contingency airfield. A record of decision is expected in December.

Defendant in domestic violence ordered to answer charges

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday ordered a man to answer the charges that he beat up his girlfriend, threatened to kill her, and pointed a machete at her.

At a preliminary hearing, Wiseman found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against 37-year-old Ramon R. Agulto.

Wiseman found probable cause to believe that the crimes of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace were committed and that the person who may have committed the offenses is Agulto.

Arraignment will be on Aug. 13 at 9am.

Police said that last July 27 at 3am, Agulto had insisted on leaving the house but the victim tried to stop him.

Agulto then allegedly grabbed the victim's hair, dragged her inside the house and was yelling at her. He allegedly grabbed her by the neck, forced her to the ground and began punching her.

The victim told police that she begged Agulto to stop the beating, but instead he began kicking her in the body.

Later that day, Agulto allegedly threatened to kill the victim and pointed a machete at her.

Police said the victim sustained scratches and bruises on the right arm and chest. She also complained of pain in the back of her head. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

***TRIBUNE* TOUR** ROSELYN M. MONROYO

The 10 participants of the Sasamo USA Corp.-organized Saipan summer camp pose for a group photo in front of the *Saipan Tribune* office in Garapan. The participants, ranging in age from 7-12, visited the *Tribune* office yesterday as part of their three-week summer camp on the island. Aside from the newspaper, they also visited Herman's Bakery, American Memorial Park, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, the Old Japanese Jail, and Saipan's other top tourist sites. Sasamo USA Corp. is owned by Bo-Chul Kim and Su-Hyun Jo.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Professions licensing board to amend regs

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board is notifying the general public that it proposes to amend the regulations for dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental assistants, and acupuncturists in the Vol. 34, No. 07, July 29, 2012 publication of the Commonwealth Register.

The HCPLB will also publish new regulations to license/regulate EMTS (Emergency Medical Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, EMT-Paramedics).

Interested persons may obtain hard copy or electronic copy of the proposed amendments from the board's office located at Bldg. No. 1242 Pohnpei Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or contact the HCPLB at the above number or email address.

Anyone interested in commenting on the new/proposed amendments may do so within 30 days from the date the notice was published in the Commonwealth Register. ***(PR)***

Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District meeting

The Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on Aug. 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road, Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-3320. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach set for Aug. 13-16

This is to inform all Veterans that Tina San Agustin, Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Veteran's Service Representative from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Rota and Saipan for Veterans Outreach on Veterans Federal Benefits. She will also be entertaining your questions and assist you with your claims.

Date, time and place are as follows:

- Rota: Monday, Aug. 13, 2012, 0830-1630 at the WIA Office
- Saipan: Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2012, 0900-1630

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2012. 0800-1630

Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012, 0800-1130

at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, Building 1364, Capitol Hill

If you wish to make an appt or for further information, please contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans affairs at (670) 664-2650/59. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Xi Juan Song Norita Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0330
vs.	)	ORDER
Edward M. Norita Respondent.	)	

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION by the Petitioner for an Order of this Court requiring the Respondent to answer or otherwise plead herein and permitting services to be made by publication under 7 CMC § 1104.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Respondent shall be served by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Petitioner shall publish the Summons once each week for four successive weeks and the last publication shall be not less than 21 days prior to the return date stated herein.

Entered this 5th day of June, 2012.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
JUDGE

Amanda C. Hayes
P.O. Box 7009 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 483-1080

Pro-Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE CHANGE OF NAME OF: ALANA HAYES PANGELINAN A Minor Child, By: AMANDA C. HAYES Petitioner	)	**FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0344 NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 23, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2012.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Macy C. Aguon and Travis DLC. Iglecias
P.O. Box 503245
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 288-4740/234-3117

Pro-Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint Joey B. Aguon and Maria C. Aguon As General Guardians For: A.F.A.I. (d.o.b. 03/13/2012) Minor Child, by Macy Janine C. Aguon and Travis Anthony DLC. Iglecias Petitioners	)	**FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0350 NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 23, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2012.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-007

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TRAFFIC SECTION, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Bucket Truck for the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project consists of the supply and delivery of Bucket Truck for the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, Saipan. The project package will be available on or after, **August 7, 2012**, at the Department of Public Works Traffic Section, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Proponents are advised that submission of multiple proposals, or alternative approaches to specific sections of the requirements, will be considered non-compliant and those proposals will be qisqualified.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **August 28, 2012** to Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or faxed to (670) 322-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-12-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, **August 30, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time **August 30, 2012**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 30, 2012**, AND must received no later than **September 11, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m. local time, **September 13, 2012**, however, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. local time, on **September 4, 2012.**

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance Bond equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of performance bond.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B. CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Ex- Tinian mayor Borja, Conner team up for Nov. 6 polls

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Tinian mayor Francisco Borja and incumbent Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) have teamed up and filed as independent candidates for Tinian's Senate and House seats, respectively, yesterday.

The two are former Republican supporters who jumped ship for the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Borja served the Tinian municipality as its chief executive officer for eight years or from 1998 to 2005. He was also a former senator representing the island for one term in the 1990s.

» Five independent candidates from Tinian also file petitions

With his "experience, proven leadership, and genuine care" for the people, Borja is convinced that he will continue to receive the support of Tinian's residents.

Borja disclosed that his decision to return to politics was a result of encouragement and motivation from the people of Tinian.

"With all these problems with CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corpo.], [NMI] Retirement Fund, Commonwealth Health Center…they need my help. People motivated me to run because they know that I can help them," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Borja is running against Joaquin Borja who also filed his candidacy along with the Republican candidates yesterday. Incumbent Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinain) is not seeking reelection and Borja recognized the valuable works and contributions of the lawmaker to the development of Tinian and its people.

If elected to the office, Borja vows to focus on legislation that will help improve the economy. He believes that once this issue has been addressed, everything will start to fall into place.

Meantime, Conner vowed to continue the good leadership he started in the House. Conner, who emphasized the importance of continuity in leadership, run and won under the GOP banner in the previous election.

This mid-term polls, he decided to go independent because he disagreed with the election in of the Republic Party's new president—Gov. Benigno Fitial—founder and titular head of the CNMI Covenant Party. For Conner, this action was a "betrayal" to the party which is now being dictated by its leader, alluding to Fitial.

Conner is seeking a second term at the House of Representatives. If reelected, he vows to work on bills that will help the government increase its revenue. He said he will also continue to advocate for the appointment of CNMI representative in every embassy of the United States around the world. Conner had introduced a resolution on this effect, citing this should have been considered as part of the Covenant agreement between the CNMI and the U.S.

"We also have to look at the viability of what we have to offer and what the outside world is looking at," he said, adding that it's time to inform the outside world the existence of the CNMI and what it can offer to the outside world.

Besides the Borja-Conner tandem, three individuals also filed their independent candidacies for the municipal council yesterday. They included incumbent council chair Steve Cabrera, incumbent vice chair Joseph Cruz, and Antonio Borja.

The five candidates filed their petitions with their supporters that include, among others, Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Jude Hofschneider, and Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian).

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The independent candidates from Tinian gather for a group photo during yesterday's filing at the Commonwealth Election Commission. The five aspirants for this midterm election include former mayor Francisco Borja for senator, incumbent Rep. Trenton Conner for the House, and three for municipal council positions: Steve Cabrera, Joseph Cruz, and Antonio Borja.

24 file candidacy under GOP banner

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Candidates of the CNMI Republican Party simultaneously filed their petitions for candidacy yesterday at the Commonwealth Election Commission with their supporters and president Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in toe.

Election commission records show that there are a total of 24 individuals who are running under the GOP banner in the mid-term elections set for Nov. 6.

For Saipan, GOP fielded 19 aspirants: 18 for House Representative seats and one for a Senate post.

For precinct 1, six have filed candidacies: incumbent speaker Eliceo Cabrera, Vicente Cabrera, Joseph Palacios, Richard Seman, Ramon Dela Cruz, and Jose Limes. Precinct 1 covers the areas of San Antonio, San Vicente, and Koblerville and to date the precinct has a total of 4,355 registered voters.

On Saipan, Luis Crisostomo has filed candidacy for a Senate seat under the GOP banner.

For precinct 2, GOP endorsed Eric Atalig and Liana Hofschneider. This precinct covers the Chalan Kanoa and Susupe areas and recorded a total of 1,323 registered voters as of July 18.

For precinct 3, six individuals are running for House seats—Juan Reyes, Roy Rios, Jesus Castro, incumbent vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, David Maratita, and Jose Saures. Precinct 3 covers the villages of Oleai and Garapan. The election commission said a total of 3,304 registered voters hail from these area.

For precinct 4, GOP has two candidates for House seats, incumbents George Camacho and Silvestre Iguel. This area covers Tanapag, San Roque, Capitol Hill, and the Northern Islands. Precinct 4 recorded 1,728 registered voters to date.

Two candidates under the Republican banner will also vie for House seats in precinct 5 and they include incumbents Ramon Basa and Fredrick Deleon Guerrero. This precinct covers Kagman and recorded 2,506 registered voters to date.

GOP also fielded two aspirants each for Rota and Tinian. Seeking the House seat for Rota is incumbent Teresita Santos, while vying for the Tinian seat is Edwin Aldan. For Senate seats, Victor Hocog was fielded for Rota, while Joaquin Borja will run for Tinian.

Tinian has posted 1,391 registered voters to date while Rota has 1,507 as of last month.

For the U.S. delegate position, longtime educator Ignacia Demapan also filed her petition for candidacy yesterday.

Demapan, after filing yesterday, told *Saipan Tribune* that she's positive on the outcome of the election and believes she has a good chance of winning the race over incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

For the aspiring delegate, visiting residents house-to-house, introducing herself, and pronouncing her plans for the Commonwealth are the most effective ways of winning the people's vote.

"I told them that I feel that I am ready for that level of work…and I am running to help the people of the Commonwealth," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

4 other independent House candidates file

Prior to the filing yesterday of GOP candidates, four individuals also submitted their petitions to the election commission seeking seats in the House as independent candidates.

They included Antonio Agulto for precinct 5; Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero for precinct 5, and incumbents Antonio Sablan and Joseph Deleon Guerrero for precinct 1.

MOST ACCURATE DRIVE THROUGH TREES

During the 2012 Tournament of Champions this past weekend, Nakatsuka Itsuo, right, hit "the most accurate drive through the trees" in hole No. 9 of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Hans Mickelson, IT&E marketing manager, is seen here congratulating him with a new Blackberry phone. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS names 5 interim principals for new school year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System appointed five interim principals for school year 2012-2013 following the departure of their predecessors.

At Kagman Elementary School, principal Ignacia Demapan confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she took a leave of absence since last month.

Named to temporarily replace her is Chacha Oceanview Junior High vice principal Ruth Bigalbal. Demapan is running for the U.S. delegate post in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Pursuant to election law, any government employee who will file candidacy has to take leave of absence from government employment as soon he or she is certified official candidate by the Commonwealth Election Commission board.

Former principal Julian Hofschneider of Tinian Junior and High School also confirmed that vice president Eric San Nicolas was named the school's interim principal since the principal retired in June.

Hofschneider has been with PSS for the past 20 years or since 1992. He rose from the ranks, starting out as a teacher aide until he became the school's principal.

For Tanapag Elementary School, former principal Jessica Barcinas-Taylor will be replaced by Dominic Camacho this new school year. Barcinas-Taylor quit her job for personal reasons. Barcinas-Taylor has been working for PSS the past 14 years or since 1998.

She wore a number of hats for PSS—classroom teacher, school counselor, vice principal, and program manager. Last school year, she was appointed the principal for Tanapag Elementary School. She officially quit her position last June 29.

Saipan Tribune learned that Sinapalo Elementary School will also see a new school administrator after its principal Vanessa Hocog quit the post due to medical reasons. She will be replaced by interim principal Daisy Quitugua when the new school year opens.

Meantime, PSS transferred Jack Sablan, the principal for Oleai Elementary School, to the system's pupil transportation department. He will be replaced by Josim Parico who was named the interim principal for the school.

PSS maintains 19 elementary, junior, and high school campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It also operates 10 Head Start facilities and employs a little over 500 classroom teachers.

Babauta wants suspension, not termination of housing allowance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hospital employees who are affected by delayed housing allowance can now heave a sigh of relief after Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta said yesterday that he prefers the suspension or reduction of the benefit rather than totally scrapping it.

It can be recalled that the advisory board of the corporation voted to terminate the allowance effective October this year due to the limited resources of the corporation.

The Healthcare Corp. was only appropriated $5 million for the current fiscal year. Babauta, being the corporation's CEO, has the authority to accept or reject the board's recommendation.

"For me, it may be wise if we will just temporarily stop it or reduce it by 50 percent so it gives us time to reassess our finances…but not totally scrapping it," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He also acknowledged that the housing benefit was formulated as enticement to medical professionals who are needed on the island.

Babauta

The housing perk was provided for many years by the CNMI government, through the then Department of Public Health, for those hired from off-island. It amounts to $600 monthly for single staff and $800 monthly for those with families. Under the law, this benefit is provided depending upon the availability of funds.

Affected employees disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* last Friday that the benefit has been delayed for six months now—from March to August. They also complained that they're being kept in the dark on the real status of the benefit.

The housing allowance, *Saipan Tribune* learned, represents 20 percent of the net take home pay of most nurses.

Babauta yesterday reiterated his concern to affected employees, but admitted that he cannot immediately say when they will be paid by the corporation.

He disclosed that part of the delay on his decision on the housing benefit is the completion of the corporation's financial assessment.

"That's part of the delay: I want to see how we advance financially to see our ability to pay the housing allowance. But right now, it's not looking good and we're still trying to beef up our collection, we try to put a system that is more permanent so we can bill more," he said.

Babauta emphasized that he and the board have no intention of ignoring the concerns of affected employees.

"It's not a deliberate intent to keep them in the dark…me and the board are continuously discussing and planning about it."

Affected employees interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* admitted that with the uncertainty of the allowance, coupled with other challenges at the hospital, they are considering other options.

Board chair Joaquin Torres earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that whatever is owed by the corporation on the housing benefit of employees, will remain an obligation to be fulfilled once funds are identified.

The board recommended stopping the housing allowance effective Oct. 1, in time for the renewals of most employment contracts.

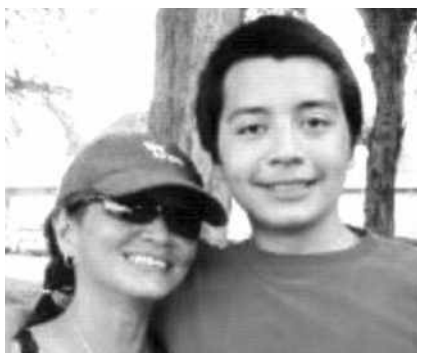
The decision whether the housing allowance will be incorporated in the new compensation package to be negotiated by individual employee will all depend on the CEO, according to the chairman.

NMC offices closed on Aug. 9 for accreditation workshop

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in an accreditation workshop from 8am to 4pm on Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012.

All NMC offices on Saipan will be closed during that time. However, classes scheduled on this day will still proceed as scheduled. The college apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

For more information about upcoming events, please visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to mother and son, Roxanne M. Weaver and Justis M. Tenorio! Wishing you the best in life. May you both be blessed with many more wonderful days like this to come. Greetings coming out from your friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Kevin R. Maratita! Wishing you happiness and good health. Enjoy your day and may you be blessed with many more birthdays to come. Greetings coming out from your friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greeting go out to Janlane Imperial who celebrates his special day today, Aug. 7. Hope your birthday is wonderful in every possible way. Hope your wishes and dreams come true for today and everyday. Happy birthday and we love you! Greetings from family and friends

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5th birthday to Spencer Camacho. From your favorite sisters, Autumn and Audree. We love you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to Niesa Andrea Borja last Aug. 4, 2012. Baby Niesa is shown here with her parents Shawn and Lyn Borja.

NEWLYWEDS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Rit Santos and Justin Agualo who celebrated their wedding day yesterday, Aug. 6. Happy wedding day to the both of you and may the Lord be with you always and many more happiness coming your way. God bless you both and again congratulations. From Esper, Martinie, and Craig Calvo

Michael A. White, Esq. F0122
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Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6547
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- KARMINA I OKAMURA, ALFRED A. PANGELINAN, and the MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0074] **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, KARMINA I. OKAMURA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated July 12, 2012 by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 08, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Swearing-In of Student Representative – Audrey Joy Ada
3) Roll Call
4) Adoption of Agenda
5) Adoption of Minutes
a) July 18, 2012 Regular Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1) Chair
2) Board Committees
a) FPA
b) ISA
c) LIA
d) CIP
e) Student Services & Parental – Community Programs (SSPCP)
f) AD HOC
3) NMI PSS Foundation
4) Commissioner of Education
i. Financial Matters
a. Federal
b. Local
ii. Other Matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Head Start Program
a. Supplemental Grant Application
b. Transportation Waiver Renewal
c. SY2012-2013 School Calendar (revised)
2. Contract Renewal for State Board of Education Staff

VI. Executive Session[2]
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

July 23, 2012

TO: ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated June 30, 2007, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: June 30, 1997; $11,765.07

(c) Amount due for principal: $349.32 as of June 1, 2012

(d) Amount due for interest: $2,400.68 as of June 1, 2012

(e) Daily accruing interest: $0.75

If the principal, interest, and late charges $2,750.00 as of June 1, 2012, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un Komple I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Junio dia 30, 2007, ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sitio Numeru 002 G 245 ni gaigi Kagman II, Saipan, Islas Marianas, san kattan, ni ha konsiste un aria 903 quadrao metro, mas pat menus, mas partikulamenti diskribi gi Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07, gi Mayo dia 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 90-1904, Saipan, guihi I discripcion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Junio 30, 1997; $11,765.07

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $347.32 asta ki June 1, 2012

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $2,400.68 asta ki June 1, 2012

(e) Interes kada dia: $0.75

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $2,750.00, yan i reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-na pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infotfotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai ni henta information pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

MVA launches Chinese website

In its latest move to tap China's burgeoning outbound tourist market, the Marianas Visitors Authority has officially launched its Chinese-language website.

The site features general information about the Northern Mariana Islands and specific tourism attractions of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, including popular sites such as Managaha, As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry, and House of Taga.

"The whole world is looking at China as the fastest growing outbound tourism market," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "The outreach of our new offices in China, including this new website, gives us an opportunity to capitalize on our advantage of being the nearest U.S. beach resort destination. In addition, we boast a breathtaking natural environment and have more years of experience catering to Chinese visitor's needs and desires than many of our competitors."

In May 2012, the MVA appointed AVIAREPS Marketing Garden as the China representative of the Northern Mariana Islands in Beijing and Shanghai. Visitor arrivals from China to the islands have increased 88 percent this fiscal year compared to FY 2011 amounting to just over 51,000 visitors through May.

Chinese visitors are able to visit the islands of the Northern Marianas under a parole process much less cumbersome and less expensive than securing a U.S. visa.

The MVA's website also highlights wedding venues, sports and adventure, shopping, diving, and golf. Hotel information is also provided, as well as details about other attractions and services available in the islands. The MVA also operates websites in Japanese, Korean, and English and has a large and growing social media presence in each source country language as well.

The MVA has launched a Chinese-language website at www.mymarianas.cn. The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan.

For more information visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

PDM collects 1,020 lbs of trash in monthly cleanup

PDM Promoters, Inc. collected 1,020 lbs of trash during its monthly cleanup of Garapan last Saturday.

A total of 30 volunteers—12 staff from Kinpachi Restaurant and 18 children from the Saipan Awaodori Team—took part in the activity, which started at 9am and ended at 11am.

Volunteers picked up trash around Garapan's Coral Tree Avenue, Winchell's Road, American Memorial Park, Beach Road, and Paseo de Marianas

PDM Promoters, which is a non-profit group, would like to thank Police Officer Jessie Stole of the Koban Police who helped in the cleanup, D&Q for donating refreshments for the activity, and the Division of Environmental Quality for its support and assistance. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PDM Promoters, Inc.'s August cleanup last Saturday yielded 1,020 lbs of trash.

The youngest members of the Saipan Awaodori Team also took part in the cleanup.

Kinpachi Restaurant staff at work sprucing up the island along Beach Road.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 7, 2000

CPA cuts harbor departure fee to $2.25

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board has approved the implementation of Seaport Incentive Program which lowers the passenger departure fee at Saipan Harbor from $5.85 to $2.25 for one year, in a move to help the tourism industry cope with the decline in the economy. CPA Seaport Committee Chair Francisco Q. Guerrero said the board made sure that such incentive will not hamper its debt service to the $33 million seaport bond. Despite the slowdown in the island's tourism economy, seaport operation has slightly shown improvement with the increase in visits by commercial vessels at Saipan Harbor. There are currently 12 commercial boat operators using Saipan Harbor, with the Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. the biggest client as CPA earns $280,000 annually from their operation.

PBACD wants tight monitoring of pesticides

The 14th Pacific Basin Association of Conservation Districts conference concluded Friday after participants agreed to support 14 resolutions all aimed at addressing the region's environmental woes. The initiatives partly embodied efforts at enforcing stricter regulations pertaining to pesticides and other chemicals that pose potential hazards to the environment. The Tinian and Aguiguan Soil and Water Conservation District, in a form of a resolution, has called on the CNMI Customs Services to be vigilant in the seizure of pesticides and other potentially hazardous cargoes that are not in compliance with the Commonwealth or federal regulations.

Aug. 7, 2001

OPA staffing dilemma Like looking for needle in haystack

Of the more than 100 local applicants who have already applied for audit professional positions and for the internship program at the Office of the Public Auditor, only 50 met the minimum qualifications. This was explained yesterday by Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan, as he pointed out that the OPA has not hired more than 50 new interns, as was reported earlier. "Of the 50 who met the minimum qualifications, we are still sifting through them to find the most qualified," Sablan said. He said that, at the moment, the OPA has only hired three full-time employees and two summer interns, stressing that his office is aware of the need to be fiscally prudent in these times when the CNMI economy is not exactly rosy.

CPA woos legislators on gaming machines

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is courting the Legislature to sponsor a bill that would waive the imposition of license fees for amusement machines that will be installed at the islands' air and sea transport facilities. Board Chair Roman S. Palacios explained that the CPA has been toying with the idea of installing amusement machines at the airports and seaports to boost the agency's revenue-generating capability. "We have agreed that this measure will enhance our ability to generate additional revenues, thus, fund needed improvements in our airports and harbors," Palacios said.

Aug. 7, 2002

Reyes: Waiver bill to DOA at lower chamber

Sen. Pete Reyes said that, although he voted for the passage of Senate Bill 13-84, he believes that it is an appropriation act and should have been initiated at the House. At the same time, aware of the position that has already been taken by the lower chamber on the waiver issue, he said he was already expecting the bill to die upon reaching the House. "I went ahead, however, and voted to pass the bill simply because it was already before the Senate and was being entertained. But it doesn't change the fact that I felt it was a bill that should have been initiated at the House because I feel it appropriates funds since it changes the funding level for the administration," Reyes said.

MVA unfazed by economist's appraisal of Chinese market

The number of Chinese travelers visiting the CNMI is increasing, and the Marianas Visitors Authority believes that the market is bound to become one of the Commonwealth's strongest. MVA Deputy Managing Director Vicky Benavente said recent developments showed an increase in Chinese visitor arrivals, as the number of Japanese visitors-the Commonwealth's top market-continuously shrinks.

Pacific

PNG elects new PM, ending chaos

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—Papua New Guinea's parliament elected Peter O'Neill as prime minister of the South Pacific island on Friday, ending a bitter, yearlong power struggle between the new leader and his predecessor that plunged the country into political chaos.

O'Neill, the only nominee, was elected by 94 votes to 12. Last month, his former leadership rival and political veteran, Sir Michael Somare, threw his support behind O'Neill's People's National Congress party, which won the general election.

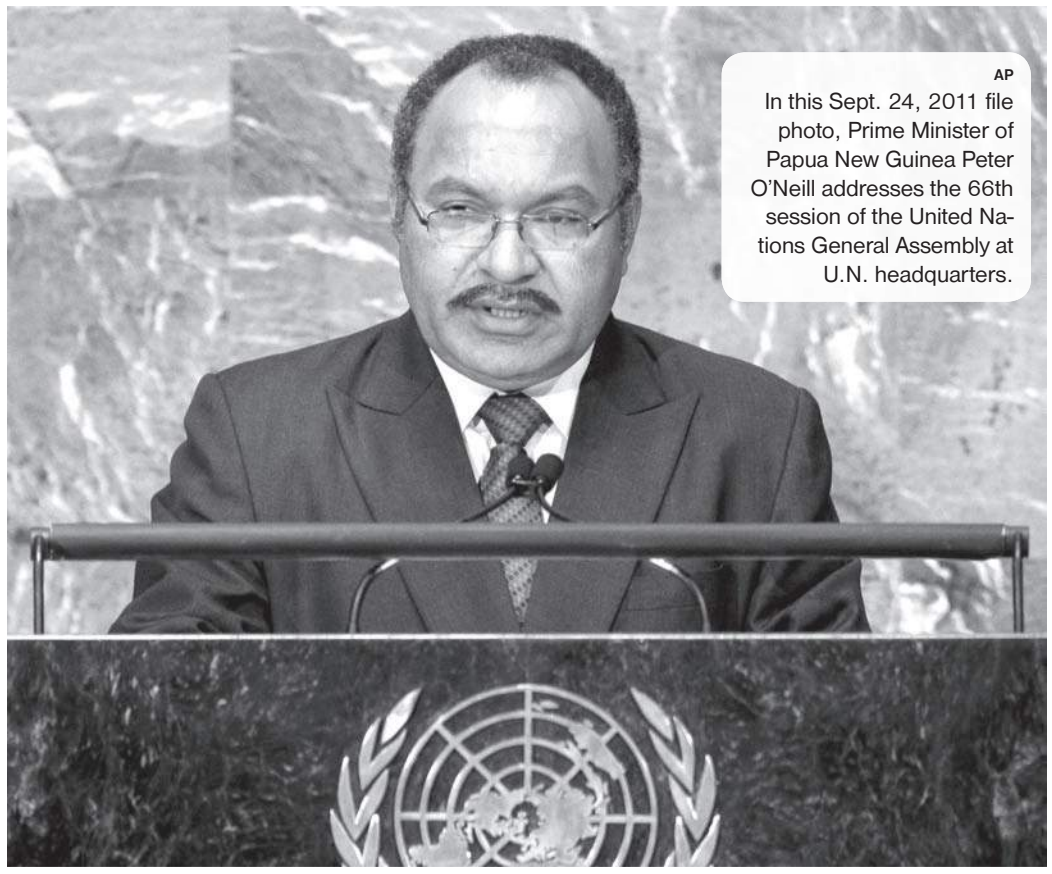
The political drama began last August when the country's parliament elected O'Neill prime minister in place of Somare, who was in Singapore undergoing medical treatment. The Supreme Court later ruled that Somare was the rightful leader, but O'Neill refused to step down.

At one stage of the standoff, both men were claiming to be prime minister, two governments were claiming to be in charge, and two police chiefs were fighting to maintain the peace.

O'Neill has formed a coalition of about 75 members of parliament, including Somare, who was first elected prime minister when Papua New Guinea became independent of Australia in 1975.

On Friday, O'Neill and Somare presented a united front, walking into parliament together and shaking hands after O'Neill was announced prime minister.

"I'm very pleased to announce that the government of Papua New Guinea is now in place," O'Neill told reporters after he was sworn in. "And we look forward to working to the interests of our people so that we can have an opportunity of implementing some of the policies that we have stated to our people."



AP
In this Sept. 24, 2011 file photo, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea Peter O'Neill addresses the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters.

Foreign investment in Vanuatu continues 4-year slide

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—From 142 (2007) to 134 (2008) and 126 (2009) to 117(2010) it took a gradual plunge to 108 in 2011, marking Vanuatu's fourth consecutive drop in the number of applications received for new projects.

Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority (VIPA)'s recently released 2011 Annual Report on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) revealed the worrying trend amidst grave concerns from VIPA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Smith Tebu.

In an exclusive interview with Daily Post CEO, Tebu, affirmed this is the fourth time Vanuatu continues to experience a big drop in new investments coming in.

"It is a serious matter. We are looking for opportunities to balance and improve investment growth coming in," he said.

"Why this is happening is yet to be determined by VIPA, It could be related to financial crisis which makes investors a bit reluctant to use their money in the bank.

"Another reason is we could be experiencing the impacts of some changes made to the processes of VIPA approval on applications.

"Previously any Tom, Dick and Harry can drop an application but in 2009 we introduced new internal control mechanisms and a new check list on screening applications. This can contribute to the drop, the investor can see the threshold but we are stricter in screening applications on potential investors.

"Nevertheless we are now conducting a research to pin the real reason(s) why we are experiencing a continuous decline in investments to address the issue."

Meanwhile the total proposed value of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the year was over Vt24 billion [US$258 million] -attributed to Tourism Service Activities and Finance and Insurance Activities which accounted for 55% of the total proposed investment value.

Out of this total investment value 78% was attributed to new projects and 22% to variation.

This is a huge increase from 2010 where the total proposed value of FDI recorded was Vt11.6 [US$124.7 million], recording a third consecutive year of decline and reflecting a decrease of 26% in 2009.

Applications for new projects received in 2011 dropped again by 8% on the 2010 record of 117 new applications whilst applications for varying existing business activities fell by 6.0% over the same period.

While growth of new investment projects is weak existing businesses opted to remain in Vanuatu and the number of renewal applications received increased 12% in 2011 over the previous year.

The total number of FDI applications (new, variation and renewal) approved after meeting VIPA's Foreign Investment Approval Certificate (FIAC) requirements was 913.

This is an increase of 5.4% on the 866 applications recorded in 2012.

The increase was attributed to the Renewal applications mentioned above, which increased by 11.6% while new applications dropped by 8.5% and variation applications also dropped by 5.9%.

*FDI refers to investment that adds to, deducts from or acquires a lasting interest in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor.

New project applications refer to new applications approved by the VIPA Board, variation refers to approved applications by the VIPA Management Team for existing businesses to engage in business activities other than those originally approved. And renewal refers to approvals granted to existing businesses on an annual basis from the date of the first approval.

Fiji constitution commission entertains differing opinions

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Some members of the public who filed submissions in the first two days felt that rights of the i-Taukei are at risk, says Constitution Commission chairperson Professor Yash Ghai.

Speaking to FijiLive, Ghai said the respondents want the rights of the indigenous community declared in international instruments.

"But they also said that the rights of others should be recognised, and Fiji should seek both diversity and unity." The Commission received a total of 16 submissions yesterday in Nasinu as the hearing went on all day.

Presenters were given ample time to explain their recommendations and have a dialogue with members of the Commission.

"This resulted in detailed presentations and lively exchanges.

The submissions, examining the past and looking forward to the future, covered a wide range of issues.

Although there were some differences among the presenters, all respected the views of others, and the proceedings were amiable throughout." He said a number of presenters favoured the retention of the 1997 Constitution with a number of amendments which were set out in their submissions.

"There were differences of view on the electoral system, being divided almost equally between the supporters of communal seats and the supporters of all open seats.

There was some support for proportional representation.

He said there were also differences on the structure of government, some supporting the parliamentary system well known in Fiji and others advocating a presidential system as in the US.

"Some commented on the role of the military in government, ranging from total exclusion to the appointment of the Commander of the Military Forces as Vice-President (to avoid having them outside)." Ghai added some wanted all the citizens of Fiji to be known as Fijians, others preferred that the term Fijians to be restricted to iTaukei, using Fiji Islander to designate all Fijians.

"Some wanted the retention, others the abolition, of the Great Council of Chiefs.

Among the supporters, there were differing views on the precise role of the Council." "A few presenters said that members of parliament and ministers should be graduates." He said one presenter talked about corruption in the country, and the failure of the anti-corruption body to follow up complaints about corruption by officials.

"Several people expressed their sadness at the culture of coups and the requirement in the Decree on the process for compulsory immunity for coup makers of the past.

While offering their own suggestions, they urged the Commission to come up with additional ideas." He said there was a general recognition that all communities living in Fiji belong to Fiji.

"One presenter described Fiji as a fragrant garden of many species and the constitution as a tree that will bear fruit.The symbol of the Youth Party, represented at the meeting, is a bunch of bananas - all Fijians living together!"

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Fiji casino raises $225 million for phase one

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—One Hundred Sands, the company tasked with building Fiji's first casino, has managed to raise $400million [US$225 million] for the first phase of the construction of the casino complex. This exceeds the $290 million target set for the first phase of the project, which is scheduled to begin construction this month. The five star casino is expected to open in October 2013 and will have 500 slot machines, rooms that are 50 per cent larger than any other resort in Denarau as well as a 1600 seat convention centre. One Hundred Sands board chairman Larry Claunch told the Fiji Business Forum that while there had been doubts about construction and funding for the project, all was going as planned. "The original projections was $290 million to build the first phase of this project, the convention centre, casino and resort, we have raised $400 million — all from offshore," he said.

Samoan woman takes up prestigious post in Geneva

APIA, Samoa (Talamua/PIR)—Mrs. Gisa Fuatai Purcell has been appointed to head a Unit in the Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union or ITU. Gisa's official title in her new post is "Head of the least developed countries (LDCs), Small Island developing states (SIDS), Emergency Telecommunications and Climate Change Adaptation". She will be based at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Gisa's new appointment was officially announced at the ITU Broadband Conference which was held in Denarau, Fiji 26-28 July 2012 by the Director of the ITU Development Bureau, Mr. Brahima Sanou. In the announcement Mr. Sanou stated that Gisa's new post was advertised internationally and she was among those shortlisted.

Kanaky women visit Vanuatu to 're-live independence'

PORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—It has been 32 years now since Vanuatu gained its independence and still groups from neighbour Kanaky continue to visit the country to re-live the struggle of independence. This was confirmed by Mrs Henriette Streter of Lifou island in Kanaky-New Caledonia who is among a group of 40 Kanak women who sponsored their own way to Port Vila to specifically re-live some of the stories of how Vanuatu was able to gain its independence from the colonial power of France in the late 70s. The group did not only join in all the celebration activities around Port Vila and around Efate but took special time to visit some of the leaders who were involved in the struggle for independence—such as Hilda Lini, Shem Rarua and also visited families of the late Walter Lini, Vanuatu's first Prime Minister.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Why Mars matters

NASA and the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory face a critical test Sunday night: The spacecraft carrying their latest Mars rover, Curiosity, will execute a perilous seven-minute series of maneuvers after it enters the planet's thin atmosphere at more than 13,000 miles per hour, trying to slow itself enough to drop the rover safely into the deep Gale Crater.

The size of a small car, Curiosity is a 1-ton mobile laboratory designed to collect and analyze samples of Mars' crust as it scales the side of a 3-mile-high mountain. Its fate rests with the ability of the spacecraft's oversized heat shield, parachute and thrusters to brake its hurtling descent. No matter what the craft may encounter, the mission's engineers will not be able to alter its course after it enters Mars' atmosphere. With handicaps like these, it's no surprise that more than two-thirds of the previous Mars landing attempts failed.

As nerve-wracking as that may be—the entire $2.5 billion, eight-year endeavor could come crashing down, literally, during that seven minutes—it's not the only challenge facing the Mars program and the engineers it employs. In the face of recession and hard budget choices, the program is again under pressure from spending-cutters and backers of rival NASA programs, such as climate research. This year, the Obama administration has proposed slashing the funding for Mars exploration by more than $200 million, or almost 40 percent, effectively putting the program on pause, with no projects in the pipeline after 2014.

Even NASA's ardent backers concede that the government has to start tightening its belt, and that giving the agency more money means giving some other program less. But the United States can't afford to risk its technological leadership in space exploration, or squander the gains that could come from firsthand knowledge of Mars.

It's worth noting that the administration proposed to keep NASA's overall budget at the same level in the coming year as it was in fiscal 2012. But the agency has been plagued by cost overruns inside and out of the Mars program (the Curiosity project is expected to cost 50 percent more than initially estimated), and it's been forced by Congress to fund projects of uncertain value, such as a massive new rocket that has yet to be assigned a specific destination. The congressional meddling is an irritant, but the cost overruns are like a cancer eating the agency from within.

Complicating matters, NASA's plans for manned space flight have been in flux over the past decades, as the Bush and Obama administrations phased out the space shuttle program and struggled to decide what to do next. The current goal is to put an astronaut on an asteroid by 2025 and on Mars the following decade. That shift in thinking contributed to the break imposed in the robotic missions to Mars; NASA recently convened a panel of in-house experts to help decide what the Mars program should do next, and one of its assignments is to see how those missions might also serve the goals of manned spaceflight.

Nevertheless, the scientific community has already given NASA clear guidance on what its priorities for Mars should be. In a definitive report issued just last year, the National Research Council said the most important mission in planetary science was to obtain samples from Mars and return them to

See MARS on Next Page

The North Korea guessing game

By DONALD KIRK
Los Angeles Times

Donald Kirk is a journalist and author of numerous books about Korea, most recently "Korea Betrayed: Kim Dae Jung and Sunshine." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

During the dark days of Soviet rule, the inner workings of the regime in Moscow were anything but transparent. Scholars and journalists had to rely on Kremlin watching, studying every statement and deed of government officials in an attempt to divine meaning. It was an inexact science, but in the Soviet era Kremlin watchers could at least watch the Kremlin. In North Korea today, it's nearly impossible even to discover where the government and its new leader, Kim Jong Un, operate.

In July, I made my ninth trip to North Korea—my fifth to the capital, Pyongyang. But as a journalist based in the region, I can't say I have begun to understand the country. I've traveled with tourist groups, with other journalists and with Korean Canadians hoping to see long-lost relatives. Last month I joined a group of American scholars.

The timing seemed propitious: just seven months after Kim took over after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il. The point was to see whether anything had changed under new leadership, but it quickly became apparent that glasnost had not arrived in the Hermit Kingdom.

On my second day, I asked where the new "supreme leader" lived and worked. "In Pyongyang," my government guide told me. Pressed for a little more detail, she said that information was secret.

North Korea is the only place I have ever been that is almost as opaque from within as it is from without. My questions elicited obfuscation and suspicion about why I was prying into such closely guarded information. Neither journalists nor tourists are allowed to travel unaccompanied or talk to people on the street, and the sights the government guides allowed us to see involved no contact with ordinary people.

Our guide in Pyongyang was happy, though, to point out a similarity between North Korea and America. As we cruised by the enormous Supreme People's Assembly, near the top of the slope that's dominated by the statues of Kim Jong Un's grandfather and father, she said the assembly was equivalent to "your Congress."

She neglected to mention, of course, that the Supreme People's Assembly meets only once or twice a year _ and sometimes not for several years at a time. Unlike the fractious U.S. Congress, the People's Assembly exists only to rubber-stamp decisions made on high, by the Workers' Party and the national defense commission. Kim Jong Un ostensibly heads both of them, as did his father, but what he really does remains a complete mystery.

For all the opacity, however, one can glean a few signs that life in Pyongyang is not totally frozen in time. Traffic lights at major intersections had been installed since my last visit four years earlier, and during our time in the capital we even encountered occasional traffic jams. In previous visits, I don't recall ever having been delayed by other vehicles on the city's mostly empty streets.

On this trip, I also saw people preparing to move into brand-new homes in a row of high-rise apartments in the center of the city, a sign that those with rank and connections, at least, live comfortably.

Much else, however, remained unchanged. Beyond the new apartment buildings, Pyongyang looked as it had when I last visited. The same sights were on the mandatory itinerary, from the childhood home of Kim Il Sung to the Fatherland Liberation War Museum, where the main message was that "the Great Leader" had led his country to victory in two wars, first against the Japanese and then the Americans.

The deification of North Korea's only two previous leaders, Kim Il Sung, installed by the Russians after World War II, and his son Kim Jong Il, who ascended to power after his father's death in 1994, remains strong. The group I was traveling with, like all others, was asked on the first morning of our visit to pay homage with flowers and respectful bows at their statues.

Kim Jong Un by now has ascended to almost the same level of reverence, but he remains a largely unknown quantity. In Pyongyang near the end of my visit on July 11, I saw on the BBC that he had appeared with a mystery woman at a performance featuring Walt Disney characters. But no one I asked seemed to know who she was. In the days that followed, North Korea's state media showed Kim with the same attractive woman.

It seemed to me that the purpose of the whole show might be to portray the youthful Kim as a grown-up, ready at last to assume responsibility for both a family and the nation after emerging from the shadows of his lofty forebears. My guide, however, professed to know nothing. She had no idea, she said, about her leader's private life. It wasn't until later in July that the state news agency, in an otherwise routine story about Kim's visit to a newly opened "fun fair," identified the woman as his wife, Ri Sol Ju.

So is North Korea changing? Does the introduction of a first lady portend a new openness? Are the new apartment buildings and traffic jams a sign of modernization? North Korea watchers can only speculate.

My latest visit to North Korea, like the ones before, left me with more questions than answers about who's really in charge and where the country is headed. I had no more chance of finding out this time than when I first made the journey 20 years ago. By comparison, Kremlin watching was simple.

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Manta on my Ray-Ban

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

I was humming the Michael Jackson-led song of *We Are the World* that we use in our Oral English class in China and one of the chosen songs played officially somewhere in the London Olympics 2012. We are on the road on barely double-lane paved road that undulates like the grassland foothills, which happily influenced our female bus driver to be sensitive to passenger comfort. Our lazy laid-back humming did not bother anyone except the young kids who, I suspect, noticed the tune from school.

In our next potty stop, I pulled out the old China Mobile wi-fi to check if I can access the Internet, and whoa-la, I was staring at the news of the Manta Ray Band receiving a silver award at Central Hall Westminster Abbey after a musical rendition featuring five groups.

(Oh, the Ray-Ban in the title comes from the fact that I was lamenting the loss of a screw on my fake $2 Ray-Ban so I was not shielded from the fierce sun. So the news came as a cheer-me-up.)

Anyway, our Manta Ray Band has been racking awards right and left, making teacher DeWitt worth his $250,000 weight in dokdok. The use of the word "competition," however, shades the quality of the band's accomplishments as it has developed a meaning other than its original intent to get manufacturers to produce something qualitatively different from someone else's to capture market share, and of necessity, increase profit as one can command a higher price when demand goes up on a preferred item. Now, competition has come to mean creating a product at lowest cost in shorter time with a built-in short period of obsolescence enough to entice return customers. In sports performances, it has come to mean, creaming the competition!

The Olympic spirit has retained the "one moment in time" spirit of doing one's best, improving one's last performance, and developing pride in the doing. For instance, in the badminton event in London, four teams were disqualified for playing for advantage to win, with the Chinese team, expected to be a major contender for the gold, caught playing lackadaisically in order to get weaker opponents in the Finals. The IOC declared that as a grievous NO-NO, and the Chinese coach duly apologized, taking full responsibility for the misdemeanor.

Bandmaster DeWitt was reported to have said: "Although they had hoped for the gold award, the band members knew that they had played at their absolute peak level during the 20 minutes they were given to perform." Members of the band performed well, were pleased with themselves, and I silently doffed my cap to vicariously partake in the group's spirit.

As a sixth grade teacher for five years at San Vicente, there was not a year when parents did not "fight" over the Commissioner's award, with parents even requesting an audience with the principal and a hearing on whether Filipino teachers heavily favored their kind against the indigenes!

Competition has come to mean, not doing one's best but for besting others, not in the great celebration of an up-per, but in the determined effort to put-down. It is thus with quiet pride that we shared the Manta Ray Band's delight in receiving their recognition in the London Olympics Celebration (note that it was not called a competition).

There was one time in our own youth when we showed up at a PRISAA extemporaneous speaking event in Davao City. I represented Northern Luzon, and was surprised to see Central Visayas and Metropolitan Manila represented by colleagues we knew elsewhere. Because this country boy walked off with the bronze, we got all kinds of recognition especially from our school. Two speakers from Jesuit schools bagged the gold and silver, but my friends walked away with none.

I grew up in a Methodist pastor's home where speaking at church and its assemblies came frequently. We were experientially predisposed not to hesitate speaking our mind before an audience. Measuring each of us with one set of standard was like comparing mangoes to star apples. There was no comparison. We all spoke differently but well.

Thus, when I read that the Manta Ray Band was "bested by a group of Chinese traditional musicians (not a concert band) from Beijing that included professional instrumentalists, dancers, and music educators," we were sad to see that the comparison between dokdok and mein chow, definitely misplaced, is still made inconsistently to the celebrative nature of the event.

But this has more to do with story rather than reality. Not unlike Serena Williams' tennis award event in the Olympics. We choose to remember her performance, not the raised flag that got unhinged and was blown away.

We finally located a pair of sunglass that serves our need. An equally priced popular but less comfortable Ray-Ban was offered, but I went for the reality rather than the brand's glorified story. I trust the Manta Ray Band will relish the experience of London and be proud of their performance, and leave the gloating to the Rotary Club!

Israel — the place to go in an election year

By URI DROMI
McClatchy Newspapers

Uri Dromi writes about Israeli affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send him e-mail at dromi@mishkenot.org.il.

Israel has become a prime travel destination for American politicians recently. Last week, Gov. Mitt Romney made a much publicized trip to Jerusalem, which left some people happier than others. He was preceded by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who had frequented us a week before him, and succeeded by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, who has just concluded a visit.

Right now, many Israelis are vacationing abroad, and the miserable ones who have stayed at home are agonizing under the terrible August sun, their brains turning into jelly so they can't anymore tell who is coming and who is going, and why. All people know is that these trips have something to do with Iran, but few people can tell exactly how. On one thing, however, Israelis are unanimous: They hate with passion the traffic jams caused by those state visits.

Having said that, the Israeli conventional wisdom is that secretaries Clinton and Panetta came to Jerusalem to tell Israeli leaders not to strike Iran and rather give sanctions a chance, before turning to military option. Romney, on the other hand, sounded more skeptical about the effectiveness of the sanctions, and more hawkish about the possibility of a military strike, whoever carries it out: "No option should be excluded," in his words.

Since none of us really knows what has been said behind closed doors, we can only rely on public statements American politicians made during these last three visits, and these, not surprisingly, show very little differences between Republicans and Democrats. Everybody—including President Obama—vows not to let Iran become nuclear. Gov. Romney promised that "no option should be excluded," while Secretary Panetta said here that "all options are on the table." Does anyone have any idea which of the two statements is better?

In his Jerusalem visit, Gov. Romney said that, "We recognize Israel's right to defend itself, and that it is right for America to stand with you." But Panetta said similar things. A tie again.

After a lot of scrutiny, I think I found some nuance in Gov. Romney's speech, which might signify something. He said: "We must not delude ourselves into thinking that containment is an option." What he implies, I guess, is that the Obama administration is leaning too much on sanctions (Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak himself said so to Panetta publicly), and when sanctions fail, President Obama and his people will presumably shrug their shoulders and retreat to Cold War style containment.

However, one statement in particular Gov. Romney made in Jerusalem caught my attention. "We cannot stand silent as those who seek to undermine Israel, voice their criticisms," he said. "And we certainly should not join in that criticism." Well said. I was at a "human rights" convention in Durban when Israel was clobbered right and left, and it was the clear and unequivocal American voice that saved the day.

Then Romney went on to say that, "Diplomatic distance in public between our nations emboldens Israel's adversaries." This is a carefully drafted sentence. Diplomatic distance in public, he said, suggesting that in private, behind closed doors, there should be a candid exchange of opinions, and differences should be ironed out.

Again, I couldn't agree more, although I have to admit that once in a while, like between lovers or married couples (not that there should be a difference between the two), a healthy fight helps cleanse and strengthen a relationship. The demand that official America must agree automatically with everything Israel says or does is not helpful to the strong relationship the two countries have.

By the way, we in Israel can take criticism and survive. To quote Gov. Romney again: "(W)e both believe in freedom of expression, because we are confident in our ideas and in the ability of men and women to think for themselves. We do not fear open debate."

To show that he really understands the Israelis, he added: "If you want to hear some very sharp criticisms of Israel and its policies, you don't have to cross any borders. All you have to do is walk down the street and into a cafe, where you'll hear people reasoning, arguing, and speaking their mind. Or pick up an Israeli newspaper _ you'll find some of the toughest criticism of Israel you'll read anywhere. Your nation, like ours, is stronger for this energetic exchange of ideas and opinions."

MARS

From Page 10

Earth. That's what NASA and the European Space Agency had been planning to do in 2018, two years after they were due to send an orbiter into Mars' atmosphere to look for signs of past life. The administration's proposed cuts led NASA to withdraw from both of those projects, which the Europeans are expected to continue with a different partner. NASA also worried that the Europeans wouldn't be able to cover their share of the sample-and-return project's $3.5-billion budget.

Having the right mission at the right budget is obviously a requirement for going forward. But it's also important that NASA not sacrifice its leading position in planetary exploration—a position that attracts brainpower, promotes innovation and spurs the private U.S. space industry. Those benefits are on top of the well-documented dividends paid by the taxpayers' investment in the space program, including the development of groundbreaking technologies and the inspiration of generations of new scientists, engineers and adventurers.

The point of exploring Mars in particular is to glean something profound about Earth from the one planet in the solar system that appears to have been formed in a similar way, and whose stable surface has preserved a record of the solar system's history. As the National Research Council put it, "It is now possible to select a site on Mars from which to collect samples that will address the question of whether the planet was ever an abode of life." And if evidence of some pre-existing life were found, what happened to the atmosphere that helped to sustain it? Answering that question could provide invaluable lessons for us as we pump more carbon and ozone-destroying chemicals into our air. It would be tragic if NASA came so close to unlocking some of life's great mysteries on the Red Planet, only to drift out of orbit.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

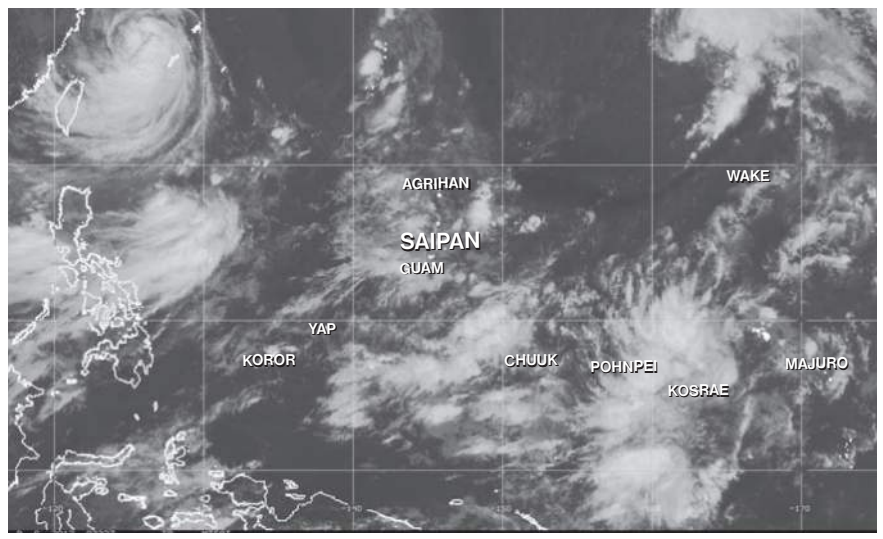
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼51
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲92	▼84
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲74	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Melbourne	Rain	▲58	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Sunny	▲93	▼75
Paris	Sunny	▲79	▼56
Pusan	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲95	▼70
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲92	▼74
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼74
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲90	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwest winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of 135E between 13N and 20N, and all along the Mariana Islands north of 12N between 140E to 150E. Tropical storm 13W is northwest of Wake Island centered at 26N162E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms northwest of Wake Island are within 80 miles of a line from 21N163E to 25N166E. Scattered showers are within 100 miles of a line from 25N172E to 21N180. For more information on tropical storm 13W, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A large disturbance is centered between Chuuk and Pohnpei at about 7N155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms embedded within westerly winds are between the equator and 10N from 139e to 154E. Convergent low-level winds and divergent upper-level winds are producing scattered showers and thunderstorms over Kosrae and Pohnpei between the equator and 11N from 157E to 167E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
12:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:09 PM	10:09 AM
Wednesday	10:50 PM	10:58 AM
Thursday	11:32 PM	11:47 AM
Friday		12:37 AM
Saturday	12:16 AM	1:26 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Social Security not deal it once was for workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—People retiring today are part of the first generation of workers who have paid more in Social Security taxes during their careers than they will receive in benefits after they retire. It's a historic shift that will only get worse for future retirees, according to an analysis by The Associated Press.

Previous generations got a much better bargain, mainly because payroll taxes were very low when Social Security was enacted in the 1930s and remained so for decades.

"For the early generations, it was an incredibly good deal," said Andrew Biggs, a former deputy Social Security commissioner who is now a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. "The government gave you free money and getting free money is popular."

If you retired in 1960, you could expect to get back seven times more in benefits than you paid in Social Security taxes, and more if you were a low-income worker, as long you made it to age 78 for men and 81 for women.

As recently as 1985, workers at every income level could retire and expect to get more in benefits than they paid in Social Security taxes, though they didn't do quite as well as their parents and grandparents.

Not anymore.

A married couple retiring last year after both spouses earned average lifetime wages paid about $598,000 in Social Security taxes during their careers. They can expect to collect about $556,000 in benefits, if the man lives to 82 and the woman lives to 85, according to a 2011 study by the Urban Institute, a Washington think tank.

Social Security benefits are progressive, so most low-income workers retiring today still will get slightly more in benefits than they paid in taxes. Most high-income workers started getting less in benefits than they paid in taxes in the 1990s, according to data from the Social Security Administration.

The shift among middle-income workers is happening just as millions of baby boomers are reaching retirement, leaving relatively fewer workers behind to pay into the system. It's coming at a critical time for Social Security, the federal government's largest program.

The trustees who oversee Social Security say its funds, which have been built up over the past 30 years with surplus payroll taxes, will run dry in 2033 unless Congress acts. At that point, payroll taxes would provide enough revenue each year to pay about 75 percent of benefits.

To cover the shortfall, future retirees probably will have to pay higher taxes while they are working, accept lower benefits after they retire, or some combination of both.

AP

In this July 26, 2012, photo, Neta Homier looks over bills in her home in Toledo, Ohio. Homier says she relies on Social Security to pay her bills and while she is confident the program will continue to help her she fears it will not be able to rely on it. "Social Security is what's carrying me," Homier said.

"Future generations are going to do worse because either they are going to get fewer benefits or they are going to pay higher taxes," said Eugene Steuerle, a former Treasury official who has studied the issue as a fellow at the Urban Institute.

How can you get a better return on your Social Security taxes?

Live longer. Benefit estimates are based on life expectancy. For those turning 65 this year, Social Security expects women to live 20 more years and men to live 17.8 more.

But returns alone don't fully explain the value of Social Security, which has features that aren't available in typical private-sector retirement plans, said David Certner, legislative policy director for AARP.

Spouses can get benefits even if they never earned wages. Children can get benefits if they have a working parent who dies. People who are too disabled to work can get benefits for life.

Because of spousal benefits, most married couples with only one wage earner will continue to get more in benefits than they pay in taxes for the foreseeable future.

"You are buying this lifetime inflation-protected benefit that you can never run out of and that will always be there for you," Certner said. "It protects your spouse, protects your family and protects you from disability."

Certner noted that private pensions, retirement savings and home values took a big hit when the economy collapsed, putting a dent in the retirement plans of many Americans.

"When you have that combination of factors, Social Security becomes more and more important," Certner said. Social Security is financed by a 12.4 percent tax on wages. Workers pay half and their employers pay the other half. Self-employed workers pay the full 12.4 percent.

The tax is applied to the first $110,100 of a worker's wages, a level that increases each year with inflation. For 2011 and 2012, the tax rate for employees was reduced to 4.2 percent, but is scheduled to return to 6.2 percent in January.

The payroll tax rate was only 2 percent in 1937, the first year Social Security taxes were levied. It did not surpass 6 percent until 1962.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Southwest pays refunds after computer glitch

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines said Sunday it has begun filing refunds to customers who were accidentally billed multiple times for a single flight, after a half-price online ticket promotion backfired. The special sale designed to celebrate Southwest's reaching the three million mark in Facebook fans was supposed to give customers who booked flights on Friday a 50 percent discount on certain fares. Instead, hundreds of frustrated would-be fliers wound up posting stories on Facebook about how their credit and debit cards were being repeatedly charged, in some cases 20 or more times for a single flight. They also tweeted and blogged about the related financial hassles, which ranged from drained checking accounts and bounced checks to overdrawn credit limits and canceled bank cards.

Italy bank chief: No need now for rescue aid

ROME (AP)—Italy's central bank chief says there's no need "at the moment" to request help from European funds to fight soaring borrowing costs. Ignazio Visco says whether Italy needs to do so in the future depends on whether markets are convinced the country has turned the tide in its financial crisis, stays disciplined on public spending and removes obstacles to growth. Visco, in an interview in Sunday's La Repubblica daily, predicted 2013 growth would be quite low.

Report: Knight secures $400M rescue from investors

WASHINGTON (AP)—Knight Capital Group reportedly has a deal to secure $400 million in financing that may enable it to avoid bankruptcy, days after a disastrous software glitch shook stock trading and jeopardized its future. CNBC reported that the battered trading firm has an accord involving the brokerage firm TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., private-equity firms General Atlantic—parent of trading firm Getco—and Blackstone, and brokerage and investment bank Stifel Nicolas. The rescue calls for the companies to purchase a $400 million convertible preferred security that gives them the right to buy Knight shares at $1.50, according to CNBC, which cited unnamed sources close to the deal.

Obama embraces health care law after court ruling

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, emboldened by the Supreme Court's affirmation of his health care overhaul, is now embracing the law while campaigning for re-election, just as Republican rival Mitt Romney steps back from it.

Obama sees a second chance to sell voters on the issue despite deep skepticism about it from many people. Romney is avoiding answering hard questions about how he would tackle health care, and thus missing the chance to energize voters who oppose the law.

Democrats say the president always planned to stress health care if the court upheld the law. A month after the ruling, he and his team are focused on promoting individual parts of the law that have proved more popular than the sum. The campaign is targeting its efforts on important groups of voters, including women and Hispanics, who, Obama aides say, will benefit greatly once the law takes full effect.

Before the decision, Obama did mention the law in campaign events. But the case he made to voters was hardly vigorous, especially considering the amount of time he dedicated to overhaul during his first year in year in office.

The primary focus of his campaign speeches remains the economy, the race's dominant issue. But the Supreme Court's favorable ruling appears to have freed Obama to speak about the health law more passionately and emphatically than before the case was decided.

His campaign also is running a television advertisement in eight of the most contested states that criticizes Romney for opposing mandatory health insurance coverage for contraception; that provision is in Obama's overhaul. A health care-focused Spanish-language ad is running in Nevada, Colorado and Florida.

"The Supreme Court has spoken," Obama told a cheering crowd at a recent fundraiser in New Orleans. "We are going to implement this law."

During an event near Seattle, Obama said passing the law was "the right thing to do" and he highlighted specific parts of the overhaul that his campaign believes resonate well with voters.

"Young people will be able to stay on their parents' plans till they're 26 years old," Obama said. "Women won't be getting charged more than men, and you'll be getting free preventive care. Seniors will see the cost of their prescription drugs go down. If you don't have health insurance we're going to help you get it."

His campaign has been aggressive in selling the health overhaul to women.

During a speech to female bloggers Thursday, the president said he's "not going to give any ground to those who would deny women their own health care choices."

Planned expat fee is talk of the Cayman tax haven

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP)—One among thousands of lawyers, accountants and other workers from around the globe, Paul Fordham is escaping cold weather and the taxman by working in a sunny British territory in the Caribbean. He and many others, however, worry they soon may be looking for another haven.

The Cayman Islands have lost some of their allure by proposing what amounts to the territory's first ever income tax. And it would fall only on expatriate workers like Fordham who have helped build the territory into one of the most famous or, for some, notorious offshore banking centers that offer tax advantages for foreign investment operations.

"The discriminatory nature of the tax has stirred up so much uncertainty for people who moved here thinking they knew what they were getting into," said Fordham, an insurance sector specialist from the London area who moved to the main island of Grand Cayman 6 1/2 years ago. His recent attempt to sell his house collapsed because an interested buyer was spooked by the prospect of the islands' first direct tax.

In the seaside capital of George Town, where financial experts in casually elegant clothes unwind over beer or white wine, conversations have been about little else since July 25, when Premier McKeeva Bush declared his intention to impose a 10 percent income tax on expatriate workers as part of an effort to bail the government out of a financial hole.

Bush refuses to call it a tax, preferring instead to dub it a "community enhancement fee." The 10 percent payroll levy, as things stands now, will be imposed Sept. 1 on expatriates who earn more than $36,000 a year.

Nation

Gunman kills 6 in Sikh temple attack in Wisconsin

OAK CREEK, Wis. (AP)—An unidentified gunman killed six people at a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee on Sunday in a rampage that left terrified congregants hiding in closets and others texting friends outside for help. The suspect was killed outside the temple in a shootout with police officers.

Police called the attack an act of domestic terrorism, but did not provide any details about the gunman or suggest a possible motive. Oak Creek Police Chief John Edwards did not say whether he specifically targeted the Sikh community.

During a chaotic few hours after the first shots were fired, police in tactical gear and carrying assault rifles surrounded the Sikh Temple of Wisconsin with armored vehicles and ambulances. Witnesses struggled with unrealized fears that several shooters were holding women and children hostage inside.

One of the first officers to respond to frantic 911 calls seeking help was shot several times as he tended to a wounded victim, and was in critical condition along with two other victims Sunday night, authorities said.

"We never thought this could happen to our community," said Devendar Nagra, 48, of Mount Pleasant, whose sister escaped injury by hiding as the gunman fired in the temple's kitchen. "We never did anything wrong to anyone."

Edwards said the FBI will lead the investigation because the shootings are being treated as domestic terrorism, or an attack that originated inside the U.S. He said authorities would not say any more about their investigation until Monday morning, including the names of those killed.

But it appeared the investigation had moved beyond the temple, as police and FBI agents focused on a neighborhood in nearby Cudahy. Authorities would not comment on the activity, which included evacuating several homes.

Jatin Der Mangat, 38, of Racine, said his uncle Satwant Singh Kaleka, the temple's president, was one of those shot, but he didn't know the extent of Kaleka's injuries. When he later learned people had died, Mangat said "it was like the heart just sat down."

"This shouldn't happen anywhere," he said.

Edwards said the gunman "ambushed" one of the first officers to arrive at the temple as the officer tended to a victim outside. A second officer then exchanged gunfire with the suspect, who was fatally shot. Police had earlier said the officer who was shot killed the suspected shooter.

Tactical units went through the temple and found four people dead inside and two outside, in addition to the shooter.

The three wounded were being treated at an area trauma center. Greenfield Police Chief Bradley Wentlandt, who assisted the investigation, said the police officer had surgery and is expected to survive.

Gurpreet Kaur, 24, of Oak Creek, said her mother and a group of about 14 other women were preparing a meal in the temple kitchen when the gunman entered and started firing. Kaur said her mother felt two bullets fly by her as the group fled to the pantry. Her mother suffered what Kaur thought was shrapnel wound in her foot.

"These are people I've grown up with," she said. "They're like aunts and uncles to me. To see our community to go through something like this is numbing."

Many Sikhs in the U.S. worship on Sundays at a temple, or gurdwara, and a typical service consists of meditation and singing in a prayer room where worshippers remove their shoes and sit on the floor. Worshippers gather afterward for a meal that is open to community members, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Kaur said she spent the afternoon serving as a translator between law enforcement and survivors at a nearby bowling alley. Police investigators kept witnesses inside the bowling alley's basement into the evening.

"We don't even know who's downstairs," Ravi P. Singh, 25, of Greenfield, said after going to the bowling alley to see if he could get more information about what had happened.

Sixteen-year-old LeRon Bridges, of Oak Creek, works at the bowling alley said police brought people from the temple over in two armored trucks. At one point, about 50 to 60 people were at the bowling alley, including police officers questioning witnesses and paramedics treating victims' wounds, he said.

AP

Bystanders stand outside the scene of a shooting inside The Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wis, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012. Police in Wisconsin say at least seven people are dead at a Sikh temple near Milwaukee, including the suspected gunman.

Thousands of fish die as Midwest streams heat up

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Thousands of fish are dying in the Midwest as the hot, dry summer dries up rivers and causes water temperatures to climb in some spots to nearly 100 degrees.

About 40,000 shovelnose sturgeon were killed in Iowa last week as water temperatures reached 97 degrees. Nebraska fishery officials said they've seen thousands of dead sturgeon, catfish, carp, and other species in the Lower Platte River, including the endangered pallid sturgeon. And biologists in Illinois said the hot weather has killed tens of thousands of large- and smallmouth bass and channel catfish and is threatening the population of the greater redhorse fish, a state-endangered species.

So many fish died in one Illinois lake that the carcasses clogged an intake screen near a power plant, lowering water levels to the point that the station had to shut down one of its generators.

"It's something I've never seen in my career, and I've been here for more than 17 years," said Mark Flammang, a fisheries biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "I think what we're mainly dealing with here are the extremely low flows and this unparalleled heat."

The fish are victims of one of the driest and warmest summers in history. The federal U.S. Drought Monitor shows nearly two-thirds of the lower 48 states are experiencing some form of drought, and the Department of Agriculture has declared more than half of the nation's counties—nearly 1,600 in 32 states—as natural disaster areas. More than 3,000 heat records were broken over the last month.

Iowa DNR officials said the sturgeon found dead in the Des Moines River were worth nearly $10 million, a high value based in part on their highly sought eggs, which are used for caviar. The fish are valued at more than $110 a pound.

Gavin Gibbons, a spokesman for the National Fisheries Institute, said the sturgeon kills don't appear to have reduced the supply enough to hurt regional caviar suppliers.

Flammang said weekend rain improved some of Iowa's rivers and lakes, but temperatures were rising again and straining a sturgeon population that develops health problems when water temperatures climb into the 80s.

"Those fish have been in these rivers for thousands of thousands of years, and they're accustomed to all sorts of weather conditions," he said. "But sometimes, you have conditions occur that are outside their realm of tolerance."

NASA counting down to nail-biting Mars plunge

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—With Mars looming large, NASA's most high-tech rover ever built was on track to plunge into the red planet's atmosphere Sunday night and attempt a series of difficult acrobatics to land safely on the surface.

The Curiosity rover was poised to hit the top of the Martian atmosphere at 13,000 mph. If all goes according to script, it will be slowly lowered by cables inside a massive crater in the final few seconds.

NASA was ready for the "Super Bowl of planetary exploration," said Doug McCuistion, head of the Mars exploration program at NASA headquarters.

"We score and win or we don't score and we don't win," said McCuistion.

If all goes well, mission control at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory should hear a signal at 10:31 p.m. Pacific. The space agency warned that confirmation could take longer if an orbiting spacecraft that's supposed to listen for Curiosity during the descent is not in the right place.

Curiosity's trajectory was so accurate that engineers decided to wave off a last chance to tweak its position before atmosphere entry.

"We're ready to head in," said mission manager Brian Portock.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio man shoots wife of 45 years in hospital ICU

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—A 66-year-old man entered a hospital intensive care unit and shot his 65-year-old wife while standing at her bedside, Ohio police said. Akron police Capt. Dan Zampelli told the Akron Beacon Journal that Saturday night's shooting of Barbara Wise of Massillon may have been an attempted mercy killing. "It seems to be slanting that way. He wanted to take away her suffering," Zampelli told the newspaper. Wise and her husband, John, have been married 45 years.

Many wildfire evacuation orders lifted in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Many Oklahomans forced to leave their homes because of raging wildfires were being allowed to return Sunday, despite some fires continuing to burn and emergency shelters remaining open in four communities. A "monster" fire had devoured almost 91 square miles and continued to burn between Mannford and Kellyville in northeastern Oklahoma's Creek County as light rain and cooler temperatures gave firefighters a brief respite early Sunday, said Oklahoma Forestry Services spokeswoman Michelle Finch-Walker. She described the blaze as hopscotching as it burns some areas and leaves others untouched.

1 dead, 9 injured in lightning strike at Pocono

LONG POND, Pa. (AP)—A lightning strike in the parking lot at Pocono Raceway after a rain-shortened NASCAR race Sunday killed one person and injured nine others, racetrack officials said. It wasn't immediately clear if all 10 people were actually struck by lightning in the parking lot behind the grandstands, nor was it known whether one or multiple strikes occurred during the thunderstorm. Two people were taken to hospitals in critical condition after the strike, racetrack officials said. President Brandon Igdalsky said one of them later died at Pocono Medical Center, but he provided no further details. "Unfortunately, a member of our raceway family here, a fan, has passed away," he said.

Asia

UN backs Filipino leader in contraceptives battle

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The United Nations on Sunday expressed its support for a proposed law that would provide Philippine government funding for contraceptives and has pitted the popular president against the influential Roman Catholic church.

The bill promotes contraceptive use in a poor country with one of Asia's fastest-growing populations. The House of Representatives plans to decide Tuesday whether to end debate on the bill and put it to a vote, reigniting acrimony over an issue that has divided Asia's largest Roman Catholic nation for years.

Catholic bishops led a rally on Saturday by thousands of followers urging the bill's rejection and attacking President Benigno Aquino III for supporting it. An archbishop, Socrates Villegas, urged Aquino to focus on his promise to eradicate corruption and poverty and not promote "a culture of contraception" that "looks at babies as reasons for poverty ... a mistake and not a blessing."

The bill's supporters plan to hold their own rally Monday outside Congress.

Aquino's camp said Sunday he would not back off from supporting the Reproductive Health bill, which he promoted in his state of the nation address in Congress last month.

The United Nations said in a statement issued in Manila on Sunday that the bill, which aims to promote responsible parenthood and teach reproductive health in schools, would help reduce an alarming number of pregnancy-related deaths, prevent life-threatening abortions and slow the spread of AIDS.

"As in many other countries where similar policies have been introduced, enacting a law that would address the reproductive health needs of the Filipino people would, over time, vastly improve health and quality of life and support development," the U.N. said.

Countering a church argument that contraceptives foster abortions, which are outlawed in the Philippines, the U.N. said that by preventing unintended pregnancies, "a reproductive health law would help prevent recourse to life-threatening abortions."

It said the country's rapid population expansion could prevent millions of Filipinos from being lifted out of poverty, adding that "hopes of future prosperity could turn to dust" if the Philippines is unable to deal with the issue.

The bill pending in Congress would require the government to provide information on family planning methods, make contraceptives like condoms available free of charge to poor couples and introduce reproductive health and sexuality classes in schools. It would encourage families to limit their children to two.

Filipino church officials have blocked the passage of birth control legislation in past years, arguing that contraceptives are as sinful as abortions. Proponents of the bill want more openness toward birth control to prevent disease and reduce population growth.

Aquino, still popular after his 2010 landslide election victory, has backed birth control even if it means going against the dominant Catholic church. He said last year he was ready to face the consequences and risk excommunication if necessary.

AP

A Filipino salesgirl holds different contraceptives that are being sold at a drugstore in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines, Sunday Aug. 5, 2012.

Country pop. 96.5 million

Fertility rate 3.27	**Median age** 22.2
In poverty 18.4%	**Literacy rate** 93.7%

NOTE: Poverty is population living below $1.25 a day

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Source: United Nations, World Bank, CIA World Factbook

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll rises to 26 from rains in north India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—An official says army troops and police are searching for more bodies in the debris of destroyed homes in northern India, where at least 26 people have been killed by torrential rains. Government spokesman Amit Chandola says at least five people are still missing after heavy downpours starting Thursday triggered landslides and flash floods in Uttarakhand state. Chandola said Sunday that soldiers helped rescue hundreds of people stranded in areas of Chamoli district.

Blast in illegal China workshop kills 13, hurts 14

BEIJING (AP)—An explosion at an illegal workshop in eastern China has killed 13 people. The official Xinhua News Agency said Monday another 14 people were hurt in Sunday's blast in Wenzhou city in Zhejiang province. It said the family-run workshop, which made locks, was illegal. The blast happened when sparks from a polishing machine ignited dust in the workshop.

Breakaway rebels attack Filipino troops, 3 killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say scores of gunmen from a breakaway Muslim rebel group attacked army outposts with gunfire and grenades in two southern provinces, sparking clashes that killed at least 3 people and wounded eight others. Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu says gunmen from the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement launched simultaneous attacks on army detachments in four towns in his province late Sunday and sporadic clashes were continuing Monday. The gunmen also attacked two army outposts in nearby North Cotabato province. Mangudadatu says two attackers were killed overnight in Maguindanao, along with a villager on a highway, which was closed as the fighting raged.

Flooded NKorean city desperate for drinking water

ANJU, North Korea (AP)—North Korean children waited in line with buckets in hand as Red Cross officials handed out clean drinking water in the city of Anju less than a week after floods swept through buildings and homes, raising concerns that an outbreak of disease could put the death toll well past 170.

The heavy monsoon rains that pounded Anju in South Phyongan province, about 65 kilometers (40 miles) north of Pyongyang, early last week triggered the worst flooding in the city's history, local officials told The Associated Press. Residents clambered onto rooftops to escape the rising waters and resorted to traveling by boat.

Since late June, 169 people have been killed, 400 were left missing and some 212,200 people were homeless due to flooding, state media reported Saturday. Vast swaths of farmland remain submerged, possibly threatening the harvest in a country already suffering from food shortages, the United Nations said.

Anju was inundated with 40 centimeters (16 inches) of rain on July 29 and 30, state media said. It was among the three hardest-hit areas in North Korea, with 45 percent of the city's population affected, the U.N. resident coordinator's office in Pyongyang said Thursday after making field visits to flood-stricken regions. Some 36,000 Anju families do not have clean water and nearly two-thirds of the region's farmland was flooded, the U.N. said.

The U.N. called for immediate food assistance, and said providing clean water and health care were crucial to preventing an outbreak of diseases following the breakdown of water supply systems and the flooding of wells. The first shipment of U.N. emergency food aid was being distributed, the World Food Program said Saturday.

On Saturday, AP reporters who traveled to Anju found a city in recovery mode on a sunny day.

Residents lined up with buckets to receive clean water from Red Cross Society officials clad in red vests. Others carried away big boxes filled with medical kits, kitchen sets and blankets. But it's not enough to meet the needs of local residents, said Choe Yong Chol, head of the Anju branch of the Red Cross Society.

The Red Cross has set up two water purification units, but they are capable of providing clean water for only a few thousand people per day, said Kim Song Il, head of the Red Cross' water and sanitation unit. He warned that there is a chance of an outbreak of disease among people still drinking contaminated water.

U.N. and other international organizations are providing emergency items, such as tents, but they are not reaching people in some flooded areas because access to roads and railways hasn't been restored, North Korean officials said.

In addition to running out of emergency supplies, the Red Cross was bracing for more heavy rainfall expected in the next few days, Red Cross Society official Yu Ju Yong told AP.

The torrential rain follows a period of protracted drought that has raised concerns about the effect the severe weather will have on the country's farms.

In June, the United Nations said two-thirds of the country's 24 million people were grappling with chronic food shortages. Less than 20 percent of mountainous North Korea is arable, and decades of deforestation have left the land susceptible to landslides and flooding.

South Korea, meanwhile, was suffering record heat. The Korea Meteorological Administration in Seoul blamed the extreme weather on hot air in the North Pacific clashing with cold air from China, creating a weather phenomenon called an anticyclone.

The United States said the North Korean government has not asked it for emergency aid, but it would consider a donation as it did last year. South Korea's Unification Ministry said Friday it was not considering a resumption of food aid to North Korea.

Hiroshima marks 67th anniversary of A-bomb attack

TOKYO (AP)—Hiroshima marked the 67th anniversary of the world's first atomic bomb attack on Monday with a call for the elimination of nuclear arsenals.

About 50,000 people gathered in Hiroshima's peace park near the epicenter of the 1945 blast that destroyed most of the city and killed as many as 140,000 people. A second atomic bombing Aug. 9 that year in Nagasaki killed tens of thousands more and prompted Japan to surrender to the World War II Allies.

The ceremony, attended by representatives of about 70 countries, began with the ringing of a temple bell and a moment of silence. Flowers were placed before Hiroshima's eternal flame, which is the park's centerpiece.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said Japan must take a bolder role in leading global disarmament efforts and called on world leaders to come to his city to "contemplate peace."

He also said the nuclear accident at Fukushima last year has shown the dangers of nuclear technology, even for peaceful purposes, and urged the government to create a mix of energy sources for Japan that is safe and secure.

"I firmly believe that the demand for freedom from nuclear weapons will soon spread out from Hiroshima, encircle the globe, and lead us to genuine world peace," he said.

Matsui noted that the average survivor of the bombing is now 78 years old, and said the city is increasing its effort to provide them with health care and chronicle their experiences so the events of that day are remembered.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said Japan must pass the experience on to future generations so that the lessons of Hiroshima are not forgotten.

The United States was represented by Ambassador John Roos.

World

Syrian forces vow 'decisive' showdown for Aleppo

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian forces threatened Sunday to mount a "decisive battle" for Aleppo even as rebels clawed toward the city's ancient center under intense bombardment and strafing from warplanes. In the capital Damascus, militiamen appeared to step up guerrilla-like forays in central districts that were once firmly in the regime's hands.

The twin fronts reflected the rising stakes for both sides and a possible significant evolution in rebel strategies. Opposition forces appear to be shifting toward more hit-and-run strikes in Damascus and elsewhere to tie up Bashar Assad's forces and blur the lines between rebel and government-held territory.

The biggest prize of the ambush brigades so far—48 abducted Iranians branded as spies by rebels—was put on display in a video that carried a warning that all Iranians in Syria would be "captured or killed" because of Tehran's strong backing for Assad. Iran said those captured when their bus was commandeered on Saturday were pilgrims visiting an important Shiite shrine on the outskirts of Damascus.

The abductions threaten to suck Iran deeper into Syria's civil war and the wider political brinksmanship around the region. Iran claims it has no fighting forces aiding Assad, but it has sharply amplified its criticism of countries supporting the rebels such as neighboring Turkey and Gulf states led by Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

In further signs of the growing proxy nature of Syria's conflict, Iran was forced to reach out to Turkey and Qatar with appeals to help return the captives.

The daylight hijacking on the main airport road in Damascus also raises questions about the regime's ability to control key parts of the capital and protect the symbols of Assad's power such as ministries and government offices—already breached once by a bombing last month that killed four members of Assad's inner circle including his brother-in-law and the defense minister.

The pro-government Al Watan newspaper said the Syrian army is bracing itself for a "decisive battle" to clear Aleppo, Syria's largest city, from rebels. It gave no possible timetable and for more than a week, activists have claimed the government is gearing up for an all-out offensive on the northern commercial center—another critical battleground for Assad's regime to survive.

AP

In this Sunday, July 29, 2012 photo, Free Syrian Army soldiers are seen at the border town of Azaz, some 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Aleppo, Syria.

Iran TV airs confessions in murder of scientists

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian state television on Sunday broadcast purported confessions by more than a dozen suspects in connection with the killing of five nuclear scientists since 2010.

The broadcast showed some of the suspects re-enacting the assassinations in different districts of the capital Tehran. The 14 suspects shown on TV included eight men and six women.

The TV showed pictures from a military garrison it said was a training camp outside Tel Aviv in Israel. It said the suspects took courses there, including how to place magnetic bombs on cars—the method used in the killing of the scientists.

Iran says the attacks are part of a covert campaign by Israel and the West to sabotage its nuclear program, which the U.S. and its allies suspect is aimed at producing nuclear weapons. Iran denies that.

Iran's intelligence chief, Heidar Moslehi, had promised recently to provide detailed TV pictures about the case.

Iran has blamed Israel's Mossad as well as the CIA and Britain's MI6 for the assassinations, with support from some of Iran's neighbors. The U.S. and Britain and denied involvement in the slayings. Israel has not commented.

The TV said closed circuit cameras in a Tehran street recorded one of the operations, providing clues for Iran's intelligence agencies to identify and arrest the suspects.

One of the suspects, Behzad Abdoli, claimed that he received training in Israel, along with several others.

"I entered Turkey and then was taken to Cyprus by ship. From there, I entered Israel and (then) Tel Aviv ... They (Israelis) said that this group is being supported financially by the U.S. and Israel," he said.

Another suspect, Arash Kheradkish, said he received training in attaching magnetic bombs to moving cars.

"There was a motorcycle racing complex (in Tel Aviv) where we received training. We were told we needed to improve our skills so that we would be able to attach magnetized bombs to moving cars ... We were given time bombs that we had to push the start button when we attached it," he said. "At the end of the training course, members (of the group) were given money. They arranged our return (to Iran)."

The broadcast said Jamali Fashi and Arash Kheradkish got the highest grades during training in Tel Aviv and were chosen to lead the operations.

Maziar Ebrahimi, another suspect, said there were three groups involved in the bombings: Two on a motorbike, a car driving in front to slow the target car and a third support team waiting nearby to help if necessary.

"The assassination control room was in Tel Aviv, but it was receiving the orders from Washington and London," the TV report said.

The TV report did not say if the 14 suspects have already stood trial or when they would be tried.

Civilians killed in Congo as regional leaders meet

KIWANJA, Congo (AP)—It was before dawn when the bullets started flying. One of heavy caliber smashed into and through the front bedroom of the Ntibatekereza family's home, slammed through a utility room and exited out a third wall, leaving a hole so large that the sun floods in.

When family matriarch Charlotte Ntibatekereza went to investigate, she found her 4-year-old grandson and 29-year-old son dead, and her daughter-in-law nursing a mangled arm.

They are the latest victims of a 3-month-old rebellion of the M23 Movement in eastern Congo that has killed an unknown number of people, wounded more than 500 and forced some 280,000 people from their homes, including tens of thousands across borders into Rwanda and Uganda.

Numerous diplomatic initiatives are under way to try to contain the latest mayhem to hit the Central African country whose vast mineral riches have proved a curse that attracts a plethora of foreign rebels and local militias.

On Monday, leaders from 11 countries forming the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region gather in neighboring Kampala, Uganda, to discuss a new plan calling for a neutral international force to deploy in eastern Congo to get rid of all the fighters. They have suggested forming the army in collaboration with the African Union and the United Nations, which already has the world's largest peacekeeping force of nearly 20,000 soldiers and police in Congo.

At the conference are Rwanda and Uganda, which both have been implicated in the rebellion. Rwanda has denied charges made in a damning U.N. report that it helped create, arm and support the M23 rebels and sent its own troops to fight alongside them. Uganda has denied that its troops also are fighting with the rebels, saying last week that it is investigating reports that some rebels are wearing Ugandan army uniforms and one rebel commander is driving a vehicle associated with the Ugandan armed forces.

On Sunday, AP reporters counted four vehicles with Ugandan license plates, including two minivans filled with heavily armed rebels, between Kiwanja and Rutshuru, a key trading town near the borders with Uganda and Rwanda.

Also Monday, U.N. humanitarian chief Baroness Valerie Amos starts a three-day trip to Congo to assess the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

It is to include a visit to the Rutshuru district of the Ntibatekereza family, whose loss occurred during a July 25 battle between M23 rebels allied with a local militia and Congolese troops backed by U.N. peacekeepers, and allegedly fighting alongside rebels of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda.

The M23 rebellion has brought some of the fiercest fighting in years to eastern Congo. In the battle that engulfed the Ntibatekereza home, the rebels also took a string of towns leading north from the commercial capital of Goma to Rutshuru. They also hold the border town of Bunagana, an important mineral transit point on the frontier with Uganda.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chile marks second anniversary of mine collapse

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A cross in the middle of the world's driest desert now marks the spot where a mine collapse trapped 33 men a half-mile under the earth for 69 days. Chile on Sunday marked the second anniversary of the cave-in at the San Jose mine in the Atacama desert, honoring the miners who survived in entrapment longer than anyone else before. President Sebastian Pinera traveled to the northern city of Copiapo to join the men at the mouth of the mine that nearly became their rocky grave. They unveiled a five-meter (16 1/2-foot) cross as part of a monument known as the "The 33 miners of Atacama: The miracle of life."

16 Egypt border guards killed, Islamists suspected

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Masked gunmen killed 16 Egyptian soldiers Sunday at a checkpoint along the border with Gaza and Israel, the first such attack on troops—and then the attackers drove off, crashing into Israel, officials said. Egypt blamed Islamist militants from Gaza and Egypt's troubled Sinai Peninsula. President Mohammed Morsi said the attackers "will pay dearly." The Israeli military said the attack was part of a plot to abduct an Israeli soldier, and two vehicles commandeered by the attackers crashed into Israel, where one blew up.

Wildfires rage in western Spain, Canary islands

MADRID (AP)—Wildfires fanned by fierce winds and high temperatures raged across a western Spanish region and on the Canary Islands on Sunday, threatening to cut off phone contact with one island, killing an emergency worker and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of people, officials said. A 35-year-old man from an army emergency services unit died in a vehicle accident while battling the wildfires in the Extremadura region, and three others were injured. A fourth firefighter had to be treated after inhaling smoke. Extremadura Interior Ministry spokesman German Lopez Iglesias said about 300 vacationers had to be evacuated from a campsite in the heavily wooded hills of the Sierra de Gata area near the Portuguese border. Forest fires were also raging on the Canary Islands of La Gomera and La Palma and there were hundreds more evacuations there, said Javier Gonzalez Ortiz, a security official for the islands off the northwest coast of Africa.

Jamaica gets rain as TS Ernesto passes to south

PORT ROYAL, Jamaica (AP)—Tropical Storm Ernesto brushed past the Caribbean country's southern coast Sunday, causing heavy rains but few problems as it took a course expected to carry it by Honduras and across the Yucatan Peninsula into the Gulf of Mexico. Forecasters at Jamaica's Meteorological Service said rain was tapering off but light to moderate showers from squalls were still present over most of the island, especially eastern areas. In Jamaica's southern capital of Kingston, Ernesto dumped some rain but left no noticeable damage.

Focus

AP

This Wednesday, May 16, 2012 file photo shows the entrance of the Legion of Christ headquarters in Rome is seen through a gate.

AP EXCLUSIVE:

Abuses surface at Legion school

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Dozens of women who attended a high school run by the disgraced Legion of Christ religious order have urged the Vatican to close the program, saying the psychological abuse they endured trying to live like teenage nuns led to multiple cases of anorexia, stress-induced migraines, depression and even suicidal thoughts.

The women sent a letter this weekend to the pope's envoy running the Legion to denounce the manipulation, deception and disrespect they say they suffered at the hands of counselors barely older than themselves at the Rhode Island school. For some, the trauma required years of psychological therapy that cost them tens of thousands of dollars.

A copy of the letter was provided to The Associated Press by the letter's 77 signatories, a dozen of whom agreed to be interviewed about their personal problems for the sake of warning parents against sending their children to the program's schools in the U.S., Mexico and Spain.

"I have many defining and traumatic memories that I believe epitomize the systematic breakdown of the person" in the school, Mary told The Associated Press in an email exchange. She developed anorexia after joining in 1998, weighed less than 85 pounds when she left and dropped to 68 pounds before beginning to recover at home. "The feelings of worthlessness, shame and isolation that are associated with those memories are still vivid and shocking."

Mary, who asked that her last name not be used, blamed her eating disorder on acute loneliness—girls were prevented from making close friends or confiding in their families—and the tremendous pressure she felt as a 16-year-old to perfectly obey the strictest rules dictating how she should walk, sit, pray and eat.

It's the latest blow to the troubled, cult-like Legion, which was discredited in 2009 when it revealed that its founder was a pedophile and drug addict who fathered three children. The Legion suffered subsequent credibility problems following its recent admission that its most famous priest had fathered a child and the current Legion superior covered it up for years.

The Legion saga is all the more grave because its late founder, the Rev. Marcial Maciel, had been held up as a living saint by his followers and a model of holiness by Pope John Paul II because of his ability to recruit men and money to the priesthood, even though the Vatican knew for decades that he had sexually abused his seminarians.

Pope Benedict XVI took over the Mexico-based order in 2010 and appointed envoy Cardinal Velasio De Paolis to oversee a whole-scale reform of the Legion and its lay branch Regnum Christi. But the reform hasn't progressed smoothly, with defections from disillusioned members and criticism that some superiors remain locked in their old ways.

The all-girl Immaculate Conception Academy, located in Wakefield, Rhode Island opened two decades ago to serve as a feeder program for the Legion's female consecrated branch, where more than 700 women around the world live like nuns making promises of poverty, chastity and obedience, teaching in Legion-run schools and running youth programs.

Because of dwindling enrollment—14 seniors graduated last month—the school recently merged with a Legion-run school in Michigan; in Mexico two programs merged into one that produced 10 graduates this year.

The school's current director said things have changed dramatically recently and many of the spiritual and psychological abuses corrected. But she acknowledged the harm done, apologized for the women's suffering and asked for forgiveness.

"For any errors made by our order in the past, we do apologize," said director Margarita Martinez. "We are sorry these young women have suffered and been harmed in any way."

In an email response to AP, Martinez noted that not all students experienced the same "level of negativity" as those who wrote the letter, and that regardless the movement was listening to everyone's experiences as it undergoes a process of Vatican-mandated reform.

Megan Coelho, 30, recalled how pairs of consecrated women would visit her regularly as a child in northern California where she was homeschooled; they told her tales of the wonderful high school in Rhode Island where she might find a vocation and grow closer to God. Coelho, who wanted to be a nun, left home when she was 14 to join.

By junior year, the occasional migraines she had suffered became frequent and debilitating as pressure to conform to the rules and highly structured schedule increased. The migraines would paralyze one side of her body, making her collapse at times. She developed facial tics. Her eyesight became blurry.

"As sweet as they (her consecrated directors) were I was counseled not to tell my parents about it because then my parents would take me home," she said, referring to the movement's goal of keeping members at almost any cost. "No one contacted my family. Nobody took me to the ER or got me a doctor's appointment."

Eventually, Coelho got so sick she returned home, and the migraines stopped. Feeling better she returned, only to suffer a migraine her first day back. She left for good six months before graduation.

Coehlo's story is the first on a blog she and other former pre-candidates, as the girls were known, started this past spring, a seemingly cathartic experience since many had never shared their pain with their onetime classmates. The blog, www.49weeks.blogspot.com , is an astonishing read—testimony of a twisted and cruel methodology applied to girls at their most vulnerable age, when even under normal circumstances girls are prone to self-esteem issues, peer pressure and bouts of depression.

Instead of finding support from friends and family, these teenagers were isolated from their families 49 weeks a year, told to unquestioningly trust their spiritual directors and confide only in them. Obedience to the minutest of rules, they were taught, reflected their acceptance of God's will.

They write about their feelings of inadequacy, humiliation and loneliness, and of idolizing their smiling consecrated counselors. They paint the depths of their depression when seemingly overnight they were told they didn't have a vocation and should go home.

"Looking back, I was suicidal," said Sarita Duffy, now a 28-year-old mother of three in Fort Cambpbell, Kentucky. "I never took a bottle of pills or slit my wrists, but I was fully content with the possibility of never waking up again."

In a phone interview, Duffy said she equated being rejected by the movement with being rejected by God, and lost her Catholic faith for years as a result. She acknowledged she can't blame the movement for all her problems but said the "zero self-worth" she felt after being rejected precipitated her descent into depression and rebellion.

"Why do you hate me God? I hate me," Duffy wrote in her journal on June 10, 2002, four years after she entered as a freshman and about a week before she received the final "no" to work in the movement's missionary program.

One of the blog entries was written by Lourdes Martinez, a former counselor or formator at the school from 2000-2005. She admitted that she and her consecrated colleagues would classify the girls into potential leaders, "normals" and those who should be sent home. This would enable the directors and counselors under them to manipulate the girls and prey on their vulnerabilities, giving special attention to those they wanted to keep as potential consecrated leaders and devise strategies to get rid of those they wanted to send home, she said.

Often, information from the weekly reports written about each girl's development would be shared with the priests who heard her confession—a striking violation of privacy. The priests could then reinforce the directors' decisions in confession with the girls, she said.

"So she's hearing this from everyone and thinks it's the Holy Spirit talking. And we would say `Yes, of course,'" Martinez told the AP in a phone interview from Monterrey, Mexico.

Martinez described an almost "Lord of the Flies"-like situation in which the counselors were barely older than the girls under their care, with no experience in adolescent development. The counselors themselves lived with the fear that they must obey the rules and their superiors or risk violating God's will.

Martinez signed the letter to De Paolis because she wanted to show solidarity with those who suffered. But she stressed that she believes the reform will work because she knows and trusts the new leadership and is working with them to improve.

Not everyone suffered so much, and not everyone has joined the call to close the program; of the 270-odd people on a closed Facebook group that served as the basis for the blog, 77 signed the letter.

And by many indications, things have changed dramatically for the better at the school, with girls allowed more time with families and much less emphasis on sticking to the rules.

"People who are going into the precandidacy and are starting out will not find the same experience as those people did," said Sasha Jurchak, 25, who left consecrated life in May because she simply decided it wasn't for her—not because of any problem with the program.

In an interview, she noted that De Paolis has instituted new regulations that forbid consecrating girls as young as 18 after a six-week candidacy program. The new rules require a years-long process of assessment similar to that of traditional religious orders. Recruitment is no longer the primary aim, she said. The girls' mail is no longer screened and they have more free time. Girls can wear shorts and pants for athletic activities instead of long skirts and stockings.

Margarita Martinez, the school director, said other changes include better reflection from counselors on when to invoke "God's will" in requiring something of the girls.

She disputed claims that the school failed to provide adequate medical care for sick girls, saying the policy has always been to notify parents and get proper care.

Asked if Regnum Christi was prepared to provide financial assistance to women who needed psychological counseling when they left, she said each case would need to be considered individually.

"The reform process has taken time. It has been a learning process for everyone involved. And we still have a long way to go," she wrote. "But I strongly believe we are moving in the right direction, with the Holy Spirit as our guide."

The letter to De Paolis from alumni said it's too risky to wait and see how it all turns out.

"Today's girls deserve more than to be guinea pigs during the experimental stages of the reform process which may or may not prove in the end to be authentic," it concluded.

Overdrive

Kia Soul, funky cheerfulness and utility

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Kia has been surprising many buyers lately, with cutting-edge styling and improved reliability.

So maybe it's no surprise that the 2012 Kia Soul, now entering its third year of production, has a new soul.

Under its hood lurks one of two updated engines. Base Soul models get a 138-horsepower 1.6-liter four-cylinder—a boost of 16 horsepower from 2011. Soul+ and Soul! models get a new 164-hp 2.0-liter four-cylinder– up 22 hp from 2011. Both powerplants are now available with a six-speed manual or—new for 2012—a six-speed automatic transmission.

By replacing the four-speed automatic with a six-speed and boosting horsepower, this year's model is both faster and more frugal. While you might be tempted to get the base engine, opt for the larger, more powerful one. It's no fuel hog, giving up one mpg in fuel economy to the smaller engine with an EPA rating of 26 mpg city, 34 mpg highway.

As you would expect of a subcompact SUV, the Soul is quite agile, although the ride is very firm. Large bumps can upset it, but it's never unsafe. Active front headrests, anti-lock brakes, brake assist, stability control and Hill Start Assist are among the vehicle's standard safety features.

The turning circle is fairly compact, making parking easy, even for inept drivers.

Despite the upgraded engines, the cabin can get noisy, but it's more than tolerable. Still, it would have been nice to get a bit more insulation; it would impart a greater sense of quality.

NUTS & BOLTS

Engine: 2.0-liter DOHC four-cylinder
Wheelbase: 100.4 inches
Length: 162.2 inches
Weight: 2,778 pounds
Cargo space: 19.3-53.4 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 26/34 mpg
Fuel consumption: 30.4 mpg
Fuel type: Regular
Base price, base model: $13,900
Base price, test model: $19,600
As tested: $20,350

Prices for the 2012 Kia Soul start at an affordableE$13,900.
MCT

Certainly that's the cue one gets from the list of available features, including an all-new 350-watt seven-speaker Infinity audio system, keyless remote entry, heated front seats, leather seat trim, automatic climate control, navigation system and push button start.

All Kia Souls get electric power steering, air conditioning, tilt and telescopic steering column, power windows, door locks and mirrors, available Sirius XM Satellite Radio with three-month subscription and MP3 connectivity.

The test car's interior belied its price, despite the hard plastics used throughout. Thanks go to the rich interior color. If you want a Soul, look over your color choices carefully.

And while we're talking about visuals, the 2012 model receives revised front and rear fascias, headlamps, taillights, side mirrors and wheels. It's a subtle change that updates the Soul's look to the rest of the Kia line.

These updates add to the Soul's strengths: its comfortable upright seating position, the easy-to-use controls and a cabin that's surprisingly roomy for such a small vehicle. Even rear seat passengers will find the seats agreeable.

And the best part: its price. It starts at just $13,900 for the base Soul. The test vehicle, a Soul!, started at $19,600, although it lacked such uplevel options as heated leather seats. So it's easy to break 20 grand if you load one up.

Still, the Soul's soul is one of funky cheerfulness and utility. Backed with good power and reasonable fuel economy, it's one Soul with which anyone can empathize.

Larry Printz is automotive editor at The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Va. He can be reached at larry.printz@pilotonline.com.

Motoring Q&A: An intermittent 'stumble' could be the spark plugs

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Question: I have a 2003 Hyundai Sonata with the 2.7-liter V6 engine and 110,000 miles on it. When idling in drive, it feels like the engine is randomly stumbling, one sharp stumble at a time. It does not do it all the time, and it seldom does it with the air conditioning off. When it does this, the car feels as if it wants to lurch forward slightly.

Now it has started to stumble when accelerating from a dead stop, but not all the time, and only for about four to six stumbles. The transmission fluid was changed at 83,326 miles and the spark plugs 60,124 miles. The check engine light has not turned on and the auto parts store checked and found no codes. I think it could be a bad spark plug or bad plug wires, but wouldn't the check engine light be on? I do most of my own car repairs myself except for the big stuff, but I do not even know where to start with this.

Answer: You may be correct in suspecting the spark plugs and wires. Try misting them with a light spray of water to see if it causes a momentary idle roughness. A P0300-series misfire fault code will result if the crankshaft position sensor sees more than a 2 percent variation in rpm between any two consecutive cylinders in the firing order. In other words, if a cylinder does not fire, the crankshaft will slow down momentarily until the next cylinder fires. That sets the code.

Because there is no check engine light and no fault codes, the stumble may be a slightly more progressive change in rpm because of a low idle, carbon buildup, slightly low fuel pressure, too much exhaust gas recirculation flow, vacuum leak or a slightly weak cylinder. Make sure engaging the air conditioning raises the idle speed roughly 50 rpm, as it should. A slightly higher idle speed may well eliminate the stumble. The specs call for 700 rpm, plus or minus 100 rpm, at idle in gear. In park or neutral with the A/C on, idle speed should be 870 rpm, plus or minus 100 rpm.

Hyundai service bulletin 04-36-015 calls for reprogramming the engine control module to eliminate intermittent hesitations while driving.

Q: I am in the U.S. Air Force and stationed overseas. My friend has a 2006 Suzuki Forenza with air-conditioning problems. The local shop on base in Turkey recharged the system, with no improvement. They told her that the compressor was bad. The compressor clutch engages, and the compressor makes no unusual noises. Both the high- and low-pressure lines heat up when the compressor is engaged. Unfortunately, I don't have a set of gauges here. Is it possible to have overpressured the system when they recharged it, and would that cause the A/C to not blow cold?

A: Yes, but not immediately. Most refrigerants used to recharge an automotive A/C system contain a dye that will leave visible stains if it is leaking from the system. A seriously overcharged A/C system will eventually freeze the condensed moisture on the evaporator, blocking airflow into the cabin. Do you have access to a simple do-it-yourself recharging kit from an auto parts store or via the Internet? The newer ones have a pressure gauge incorporated into the recharging hose. This would allow you to check the charge with the compressor engaged to see whether it's over- or undercharged.

If the system is properly charged, the compressor is engaging but no cold air is blowing, the expansion valve or tube that meters refrigerant into the evaporator may be clogged.

Q: Is the widespread practice of letting the motor run while waiting or parking simply a waste of fuel? Or is there some advantage in not having to restart the engine?

A: The only reason to leave a car engine idling for more than perhaps 30 seconds is for the comfort and convenience of the occupants. Age, medical issues and extreme hot or cold temperatures can be valid reasons, but anything else is a waste of fuel.

Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life&Style

'Maometto' takes Santa Fe Opera by storm

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Midway through Act 1 of Rossini's "Maometto II," the approach of the Turkish warrior is heralded by booming cannon and flashes of light.

The audience at the Santa Fe Opera this past week couldn't help but chuckle at the stage effects, since at that moment nature was providing thunder and lightning more awesome than anything inside the theater.

Such real sound-and-light shows go with the territory at this opera house, perched majestically atop a desert mesa and open to the night sky at the sides and at the rear of the stage.

But the storm outside scarcely detracted from the impact of Rossini's neglected masterwork—even when the exceptional soprano Leah Crocetto had to sing her long final scene through driving wind and rain.

"Maometto" is the highlight of a strong season of five productions, all new to Santa Fe. There's one warhorse (Puccini's "Tosca"); two flawed but enduring works (Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" and Richard Strauss' "Arabella"), and one true rarity ("King Roger" by the Polish composer Karol Szymanowski). Rossini's tragic opera, which premiered in Naples in 1820, is ahead of its time musically and dramatically. The score has its share of bravura arias, but much of it is written as a series of ensembles and choruses that melt into one another with no break for applause. And the plot, involving a clash between 15th century Muslim and Christian civilizations, could hardly be more topical.

The action takes place in the Venetian colony of Negroponte, under siege by the Turks. In the vibrant production by director David Alden and set and costume designer Jon Morrell, the city is represented by a semi-circular white stone wall with sections that slide and open as scenes change. There are imaginative visual effects: Maometto's men

AP

In this undated photo provided by the Santa Fe Opera, Luca Pisaroni, left, and Leah Crocetto perform in the Santa Fe Opera production of Rossini's "Maometto II."

brutally punching a hole through the wall for his entrance; a brace of horses descending on a ramp for his ride into battle; a chorus of Muslim women, veiled in black, popping up behind Maometto's bright red tent.

But it's the singing that counts most here, and the cast is splendid. Crocetto's character, Anna, progresses from shy daughter of an overbearing Venetian lord, to conflicted woman in love with her enemy, to defiant heroine who gives her life to save her people. Crocetto captures this dramatic arc and sings with growing power and passion—capped by the 20-minute scene in which she tirelessly pours out ribbons of gleaming sound with embellishments of pinpoint accuracy and fearless high notes.

She deservedly draws the night's biggest ovations, but bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni in the title role runs a close second. His magnetic stage presence and booming, burnished tone bring to life a character who is more than just a ruthless barbarian. His love for Anna shows his tender side, and his dismay at her betrayal makes us almost pity him.

As Anna's father, tenor Bruce Sledge displays a bright, attractive sound and superb technical skills. Mezzo-soprano Patricia Bardon, as Anna's intended, possesses a fiery coloratura technique and warm tone in the lower part of her voice, but her high notes often sound strident.

Chief conductor Frederic Chaslin leads a spirited performance and keeps the tricky ensembles on track. The orchestra sounds terrific, as it does all week under a variety of conductors.

A brief look at the other productions:

"Tosca": Director Stephen Barlow tries to be provocative, but Yannis Thavoris' perspective-defying sets (the church dome lies on its side and Cavaradossi paints the Mary Magdalene on the floor) do little to freshen this familiar work. South African soprano Amanda Echalaz, in her U.S. debut, has the temperament of a diva but not the vocal allure to stop the show with her aria "Vissi d'arte." Tenor Brian Jagde sings Cavaradossi with ringing tone and sustained high notes. As the villainous Scarpia, bass Raymond Aceto is a disappointment, his singing lacking visceral punch. Chaslin again conducts.

"The Pearl Fishers": This tuneful work suffers from an almost terminally silly plot. Lee Blakeley's production treats it with utmost seriousness and creates surprising dramatic tension. He makes good use of the open sky, turning the back of the stage into the sea where the Ceylonese divers risk their lives seeking treasure. As the virgin priestess Leila, soprano Nicole Cabell is simply radiant, floating exquisite high notes and trilling to perfection. As the fisherman Nadir, Eric Cutler uses beautiful soft tones to etch the high vocal line of his aria. Baritone Christopher Magiera seems out of sorts as Zurga, cracking on high notes and sounding underpowered in his famous duet with Nadir. Emmanuel Villaume conducts.

"Arabella": Tim Albery's handsome, traditional production conveys the bittersweet charm of this story about a bankrupt family trying to marry off their daughter in pre-World War I Vienna. But it can't mask the awkward plot machinations left when Hugo von Hofmannsthal died before he could rework his libretto. Soprano Erin Wall conveys the heroine's melancholy better than her high spirits, but she sings with luster in her middle voice and soars beautifully in the higher reaches. Soprano Heidi Stober is delightful as her sister Zdenka, and baritone Mark Delavan makes a powerhouse Mandryka, the wealthy farmer who wins Arabella, though his tone has become a bit woolly. Sir Andrew Davis conducts.

"King Roger": In a program note, director Stephen Wadsworth describes this strange work, which premiered in Warsaw in 1926, as "a sort of fever-dream." Based loosely on Euripides' "Bacchae," the plot depicts the struggle of a 12th century Sicilian king to reconcile his rational and sensual sides. The latter is represented by the Shepherd, who exerts an overwhelming sexual attraction on everyone he encounters—including both Roger and his wife, Roxana. Wadsworth's production is elegant but a bit static, reinforcing the feeling that the work is as much oratorio as opera. Polish baritone Mariusz Kwiecien conveys Roger's suffering with great power; soprano Erin Morley sings Roxana's aria with ethereal tone; and tenor William Burden is a clarion-voiced Shepherd, though it's too bad this embodiment of virile youth looks older than the king. Evan Rogister conducts.

The season, which runs through Aug. 26, arranges its schedule so visitors can see all five productions on consecutive nights as this reviewer did last week. The cycle repeats starting Monday, Aug. 6, and again Monday, Aug. 13.

Chavela Vargas, famed Mexican singer, dies at 93

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Chavela Vargas, who defied gender stereotypes to become one of the most legendary singers in Mexico, died Sunday at age 93.

Her friend and biographer Maria Cortina said Vargas died at a hospital in the city of Cuernavaca, where she had been admitted for heart and respiratory problems.

Vargas rose to fame flouting the Roman Catholic country's preconceptions of what it meant to be a female singer: singing lusty "ranchera" songs while wearing men's clothes, carrying a pistol, drinking heavily and smoking cigars. Though she refused to change the pronouns in love songs about women as some audiences expected, many of her versions of passionate Mexican folk songs are considered definitive.

Born in San Joaquin de Flores, Costa Rica, on April 17, 1919, Vargas immigrated to Mexico at age 14. She sang in the streets as a teenager, then ventured into a professional singing career well in her 30s.

"I was never afraid of anything because I never hurt anyone," Vargas told the audience at a Mexico City tribute concert in June 2011. "I was always an old drunk."

Vargas recorded 80 albums, becoming a major figure in Mexico City's artistic explosion of the mid-20th century. She was a friend and a frequent house guest of the Mexican painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and was close to the Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca.

Along the way she was honored as a "distinguished citizen" of Mexico City and was given Spain's Grand Cross of Isabella the Catholic. In 2007 the Latin Recording Academy gave her its lifetime achievement award.

She appeared in the 2002 film "Frida," about her old friend, singing the eerie song "La Llorona," or "The Crier," in a hoarse but haunting voice.

"I don't think there is a stage big enough in this world for Chavela," wrote the Spanish director Pedro Almodovar, who featured her music in many of his films.

Though her liaisons with women were known throughout her life, Vargas did not publicly come out as a lesbian until publishing her autobiography "Y si quieres saber de mi pasado" ("If You Want to Know About My Past) at age 81.

"What hurt was not being homosexual, but what they throw it in my face as if it were the plague," she wrote.

As a youth, she suffered from polio and she attributed her recovery to the shamans she consulted.

Her doctor, Jose Manuel Nunez, said Sunday that she had refused to accept breathing tubes or other measures to keep her alive.

"She had to have a natural death," he said

Cortina said Chavez "went with great peace. She never complained." She was conscious to the end, the writer said. "She sought my hand and her shamanic medallion."

In 2011, Vargas was still at work, releasing a new album of Garcia Lorca's poems and basking in standing ovations from a wheelchair on stage while wearing her emblematic neckerchief. In interviews she said she was at "peace with life and could not ask for more," saying that at death, she would "go with pleasure."

AP

In this April 15, 2012 file photo, Mexican singer Chavela Vargas, born in Costa Rica, performs during a concert at the Fine Arts Palace in Mexico City.

"Each of you remembers me as you like, each one say what they feel and what they lived with me," she said. "I ask God that wherever I am going someday, you will come to greet me, and I will greet all of you."

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Total Recall
Tuesday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Underworld's Len Wiseman jumps into the remake game with this retooling of Phillip K. Dick's short story, We Can Remember It for You Wholesale, originally brought to the big screen by Paul Verhoven in the 1990 action/sci-fi eyepopper starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. Colin Farrell stars as a man whose visions of Mars makes him question his own identity. Equilibrium's Kurt Wimmer provides the screenplay.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days
Tuesday 1:00 4:00 7:20
Cast: Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
The oh-so-wimpy Greg Heffley (Zachary Gordon) gets himself into more mischief when he spends the summer working at a country club in this third installation of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. David Bowers returns to direct from a script by Maya Forbes and Wally Wolodarsky.

★ ★ ★

The Watch
Tuesday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Cast: Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Jonah Hill
Comedy • Rated R

The Dark Knight Rises
Tuesday 12:45 3:55 7:00
Cast: Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

The Dark Knight Rises
Tuesday 12:55 4:05 7:10
Cast: Christian Bale, Michael Caine
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift
Tuesday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Cast: Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

The Amazing Spider-Man
Tuesday 1:10 4:10 7:05
Cast: Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

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Bollywood gets racy with provocative new movie

MUMBAI, India (AP)—It stars a hard-core adult film actress and has a title that would appear to leave little to the imagination. But it's not a porn movie—Bollywood is certainly not ready for that.

"Jism 2"—the word means "body" in Hindi language—will be released across India on Friday, promising to be one of the most graphic films in Bollywood history. It shows no frontal nudity—government censors monitoring a film industry that long refused to show onscreen kissing would never clear that. But with its oil massages and fantastic lingerie, the film is pushing the ever-widening sexual boundaries enjoyed by many in urban India.

At the same time, growing sexual freedom has sparked a backlash by traditionalists who have torn down its risque poster, led a crackdown on bars in Mumbai and even advocated an informal curfew for women.

First, a few words about the movie's title. Director Pooja Bhatt insists there was no double entendre intended.

But the title, coupled with the oeuvre of the film's leading lady, set off alarm bells at Apple, Google and YouTube.

AP

An Indian man watches a poster of Bollywood film "Jism 2" displayed outside a cinema in Hyderabad, India, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012.

Apple rejected the filmmakers' request to list "Jism 2"—a sequel to the 2003 film "Jism"—on its Movie Talkies app.

"They wrote to us saying I'm sorry it's a rude word, this is porn," Bhatt said. "We said no it's not, it's a legitimate Hindi film and the word j-i-s-m actually means body."

Google ultimately allowed the filmmakers to tag their ads with "jism" and "Sunny Leone," and YouTube allowed the promotional videos, said Alnoor Merchant, head of digital marketing for the film. Apple, though, is insisting the filmmakers either remove the promotional photos of Leone or restrict the content with an adult rating, he said.

The film has already caused a minor stir in Mumbai, where filmmakers had to remove posters featuring a glowing image a woman's arched naked body draped in a wet white sheet after a local politician complained.

"You'll always have these two polarities," said Mahesh Bhatt, Pooja's father and the screenwriter for "Jism 2." "Pretending to police the moral values of a society is the easiest way for politicians to earn brownie points."

Leone, born in Canada to Indian immigrants, said she thought she would be run out of town when she appeared on the Indian reality television show Bigg Boss last year. "I didn't think the Indian public would actually like me," she said. "I've done everything that I could do wrong in the Indian culture."

Instead, Mahesh Bhatt—a famously outspoken Bollywood provocateur—offered her the lead in "Jism 2" on live television.

"The young generation of people are ready to see somebody like me on TV, obviously, or I wouldn't be here," Leone said.

For decades, Indian cinematic sexuality was a marvel of indirection. There were swelling songs, innervating rain storms, and jiggly dances, but no onscreen kissing.

Olympic Viewing: NBC's parent cams

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

American gymnast Aly Raisman earned a gold medal for her athletic prowess in London. It's her mom who's gone viral.

NBC's video of Lynn Raisman watching her daughter perform on the uneven bars Sunday, with her nervous murmurs and face and body contortions, was the single most replayed moment on Tivo digital video recorders that night. It has even inspired a YouTube spoof.

The network doesn't have "parent cams" trained on the stands during every Olympic event. Moms and dads are featured only when they are relevant to the story lines, veteran NBC producer Molly Solomon said Thursday. But they've already been indelible parts of the network's coverage in the first few days of the London Games.

The parents of American gymnasts John Orozco and Dannel Leyva were palpable presences during that sport's coverage. The bronze medal-winning Leyva's dad was his coach and a bundle of energy. NBC introduced Orozco's parents in a segment that talked about the sacrifices they made in helping the Bronx athlete reach a high level of competition. When Orozco's dreams were shattered by some subpar performances, he was near tears, and his mother's face reflected similar agony.

"Can you imagine the emotions of watching your kid compete?" Solomon said. "To me it's part of the fabric of the story."

One of NBC's best moments came after South African Chad Le Clos unexpectedly beat American Michael Phelps in the butterfly. Americans by now are used to seeing Phelps' mom, Debbie, cheer her son's many medal-winning performances. This time the camera caught her in a double-take, first thinking it was another gold medal before learning her son had been beaten in the end.

NBC producer Dan Beard was in the stands and heard a man shouting, "That's my son! That's my son!" He quickly ordered cameras to catch video of Le Clos' sobbing father, his head wrapped in a South African flag. The parents with their contrasting emotions made for arresting images. It was much the same Thursday with Phelps' mother and Ryan Lochte's disappointed dad following their sons' final pool duel.

For many American athletes, NBC producers know the parents already through the research-gathering process leading up to the Olympics. Seemingly more athletes these days are teenagers, and their parents are the emotional and financial support system through years of training. A Procter & Gamble ad campaign for the Olympics focuses on just these sacrifices that moms make.

Not all parents are comfortable being a part of their child's moments. Solomon recalled a recent Winter Olympics where the parents of an ice dancing team asked that the cameras stay focused on their children. The mother of American ice skater Evan Lysacek is usually out of the arena, unable to watch her son perform live.

"If they don't want to be on camera, we are respectful of that," Solomon said.

NBC learns from Olympics

AP

Natalie Hawkins, bottom left, mother of U.S. gymnast Gabrielle Douglas, cheers for her gold medallist daughter during the artistic gymnastics women's individual all-around competition at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, in London.

officials where an athlete's family has seats before the competition takes place. There's always a double-check, with a researcher going up in the stands to make sure that information is correct.

Imagine the embarrassment of getting it wrong. Judging by many of the expressions, however, it's usually pretty easy to tell when they've got it right.

THIS CAME OUT WRONG: "Gabby is far and away the best bar worker in the United States," said NBC's Tim Daggett as gymnast Gabby Douglas began her uneven parallel bars performance.

TAPE DELAY: NBC says its researchers have found that people who learn the results from major competitions before NBC shows them on its tape-delayed prime-time coverage are more likely to watch them later. The fear that people would find out early and not bother to tune in has been the major assumption behind holding back live coverage during Olympics where time zones present a serious issue. Nielsen said that 30.8 million people watched Wednesday night's NBC show, as the games continue to do better on U.S. TV than the Beijing Olympics of 2008. NBC said all of its cable telecasts are seeing ratings increases from four years ago, too.

READY, AIM. ..: Archery is the hot Olympic sport. NBC said archery is the top-rated sport of all the ones it shows on its cable networks, higher even than basketball.

JUDO CHAMP: Heart-melting moment watching Ohio's Kayla Harrison win the first American gold medal in judo ever. As a sensitive report by NBC's Stephanie Gosk pointed out, Harrison kept with the sport despite being sexually abused for three years as a teenager by a former coach. Her last hurdle Thursday was facing British underdog Gemma Gibbons before a boisterous hometown crowd. The 22-year-old Harrison leaped into the stands after winning to hug her fiance, who draped her with an American flag as David Bowie's "Heroes" played in the background.

QUOTE: "If I'm the Lithuanian coaching staff, I'm not showing this tape."—basketball announcer Bob Fitzgerald, advising the next opponent of the U.S. men's team in the closing moments of the Americans' 156-73 victory over Nigeria.

UPCOMING: As swimming and gymnastics wind down, the track and field events begin. NBC will cover the men's shot put gold medal finals.

In this file film image provided by Warner Bros., Christian Bale portrays Bruce Wayne and Batman in a scene from "The Dark Knight Rises." AP

'Dark Knight' on top for third straight week

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Dark Knight Rises" topped the box office for the third week in a row, making $36.4 million this past weekend.

The finale in Christopher Nolan's epic Batman trilogy has now made nearly $355 million domestically alone, according to Sunday estimates from Warner Bros.

"Total Recall," starring Colin Farrell in a new take on the thriller that provided Arnold Schwarzenegger with one of his best-loved actions roles in 1990, opened in second place with $26 million, Columbia Pictures said.

And the Fox family comedy "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days" debuted at No. 3 with $14.7 million.

Warner Bros. head of distribution Dan Fellman said he wasn't surprised by the film's strong showing in its third week; it only dropped 41 percent compared to the 43-percent drop in week three that "The Dark Knight" experienced in 2008. He also said the film is getting back on track to perform at its expected pace following the opening-night shooting in Aurora, Colo., that left 12 dead and 58 others injured.

"The support from audiences across North America has been outstanding," Fellman said. "The movie speaks for itself, and the unfortunate tragedy that took place hurt everyone. We're obviously very moved by the events that took place."

1. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** $36.4 million. ($67 million international.)
2. **"Total Recall,"** $26 million. ($6.2 million international.)
3. **"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days,"** $14.7 million. ($2.8 million international.)
4. **"Ice Age: Continental Drift,"** $8.4 million. ($32.8 million.)
5. **"The Watch,"** $6.35 million.
6. **"Ted,"** $5.5 million. ($32 million international.)
7. **"Step Up Revolution,"** $5.7 million. ($7.9 million international.)
8. **"The Amazing Spider-Man,"** $4.3 million. ($6.1 million international.)
9. **"Brave,"** $2.9 million. ($16.5 million international.)
10. **"Magic Mike,"** $1.4 million. ($3.7 million international.)

"The Dark Knight Rises" has now set an IMAX record, he said, with nearly $48 million of the film's gross coming from the large-screen format. Nolan shot more than 40 percent of the film in IMAX with the intention of having it projected that way.

Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com, said he was surprised that "The Dark Knight Rises" held so well in its third week.

"It was the clear runaway favorite. I thought it would be a race for the No. 1 spot with `Total Recall,'" he said. "`The Dark Knight' is rising above the fray and word of mouth is just tremendous on the film and people keep going back to see it."

Rory Bruer, Sony's president of worldwide distribution, said "Total Recall" opened close to the studio's high-$20 million estimate. But it was also No. 1 in many of the dozen international markets in which it opened, including India, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand for a total of $6.2 million. It expands to Europe and Latin America in upcoming weeks.

Farrell stars in this version of the futuristic Philip K. Dick short story "We Can Remember It For You Wholesale" as a man who struggles to piece together his memory after he discovers the life he's been living is a fabrication. Kate Beckinsale and Jessica Biel co-star.

"The thing about `Total Recall' is that it's always been made for the world stage, and we're off to a good start opening in smaller markets this week," Bruer said. "Overall when you consider this movie was made for such a reasonable price ($125 million), for the scenario of what we got, we've opened really well. I think we're going to be very pleased with the result."

Also this week, the Universal Pictures comedy "Ted" made an additional $5.5 million to cross the $200 million mark domestically; it also had a huge weekend internationally, taking in $32 million. "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane directs for the first time and provides the voice of a foul-mouthed, pot-smoking teddy bear who's the lifelong best friend of Mark Wahlberg's character.

"It's very, very R-rated but it's the quintessential word-of-mouth movie," Dergarabedian said. "You see it and you've got to take your friends to see it so they can believe what you're saying."

Estimated ticket sales were for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Charges dropped against actor Cuba Gooding Jr.

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Misdemeanor battery charges related to a bar dust-up in New Orleans' French Quarter have been officially dropped against Academy Award-winning actor Cuba Gooding Jr.

City spokesman Ryan Berni said an arraignment hearing was held Friday but there was no one to press the complaint. As a result, he said, the city moved to drop the charges.

"This ends the case," Berni said.

The Times-Picayune reports (http://bit.ly/QA32Ji) Gooding, 44, did not appear at the brief hearing before Judge Sean Early. The hearing came two days after an Old Absinthe House employee said she was dropping charges against him.

Police say the bartender told them that Gooding became upset after patrons started asking him to pose for photos with them at about 3 a.m. The bartender told investigators that Gooding pushed her after she asked him to calm down and again after she told him he should leave and that police had been called.

Gooding won the 1997 Academy Award for best supporting actor for his portrayal of a fictional pro football player in "Jerry Maguire" starring Tom Cruise. In the film, he says the now-familiar line to his agent, "Show me the money!"

He has been in New Orleans filming "The Butler," a movie about a White House butler who serves eight American presidents. The film stars Nicole Kidman, Liam Neeson, John Cusack, Jane Fonda, Robin Williams, Alex Pettyfer and Minka Kelly.

"The Butler" is being directed by Lee Daniels ("Precious" and "Monster's Ball").

Store owners drag entire staff into an office affair

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am one of nine employees who work in a jewelry store owned by "Tom" and "Carol," a husband and wife. Tom is having an affair with "Angie," our bookkeeper. I know, because I have heard him talk about it to my co-workers. Carol is suspicious and has approached each of us to ask if anything is going on between them. So far we have covered for them.

Abby, we are getting tired of covering for our boss. It creates tension to lie to Carol, and personally, I feel a lot of guilt over this.

Some of us have suggested to Angie that she quit, but she has no intention of doing so.

Should we tell Carol what we know, tell Angie's husband, or just keep our mouths shut and continue working in these uncomfortable circumstances?

UNEASY IN NEW YORK

DEAR UNEASY: I don't blame you for feeling uneasy. You have been placed squarely in the middle. It is unfair for your boss to expect you to lie for him, and equally unfair that his wife is asking you to be her stool pigeon.

Carol probably knows what's what. She shouldn't be putting her employees on the spot to obtain proof that Tom's fooling around. If she questions you again, simply say, "Sorry, I have nothing to say." I assure you, she'll get the message.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What do you do with someone who has no manners? A relative of my husband's has been dating a woman for more than a year. They are both in their 30s, and there's a strong possibility they will marry.

Whenever a group of us get together to go out for dinner, on vacation or anywhere, she puts a damper on the entire event. She won't converse (and it's not because she's shy), she never smiles, she just sits with her arms crossed and is absolutely miserable.

She has been to our home for dinner on a couple of occasions. Afterward she gets up from the table and never, ever, says please or thank you. She's the most immature, self-centered, unpleasant human being I have ever met. Even our children comment on her rudeness—in addition to the group of people we go out with. She is even rude to my mother-in-law, but her boyfriend just doesn't see it.

They say that love is blind—but THAT blind? It has reached the point that we don't want to associate with this couple. Would I be out of line to say something to her (particularly when she is in my home) about her lack of manners, and if so—what do you suggest I say? (I know what I'd LIKE to say!)

FUMING IN DELAWARE

DEAR FUMING: From your description of this unhappy young woman's body language, it is obvious that she's desperately uncomfortable in social situations with you and "the group." It is possible that she suffers from a social phobia of some sort.

Rather than confront her about her "bad manners," make a date to see her alone. Then, in the kindest way possible, try to get her to open up about what's bothering her.

If that doesn't work, then talk to your husband's relative about your concerns. His girlfriend may suffer from emotional problems that could be helped with counseling or medication.

As a last resort, curtail your invitations to them.

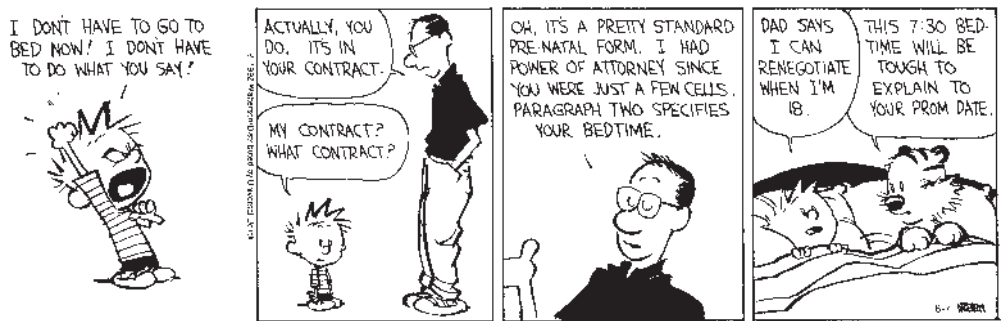
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO BED NOW! I DON'T HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU SAY!
ACTUALLY, YOU DO. IT'S IN YOUR CONTRACT.
MY CONTRACT? WHAT CONTRACT?
OH, IT'S A PRETTY STANDARD PRE-NATAL FORM. I HAD POWER OF ATTORNEY SINCE YOU WERE JUST A FEW CELLS. PARAGRAPH TWO SPECIFIES YOUR BEDTIME.
DAD SAYS I CAN RENEGOTIATE WHEN I'M 18.
THIS 7:30 BEDTIME WILL BE TOUGH TO EXPLAIN TO YOUR PROM DATE.

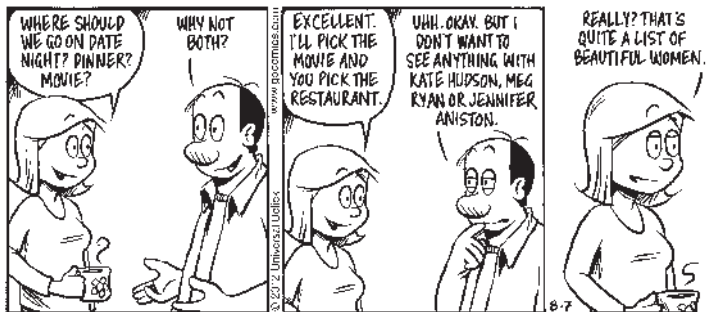
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

IT'S A PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD! AYIEEEE!!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE OF YOU
BUT I'M REALLY GOOD!
JIM DAVIS 8-7

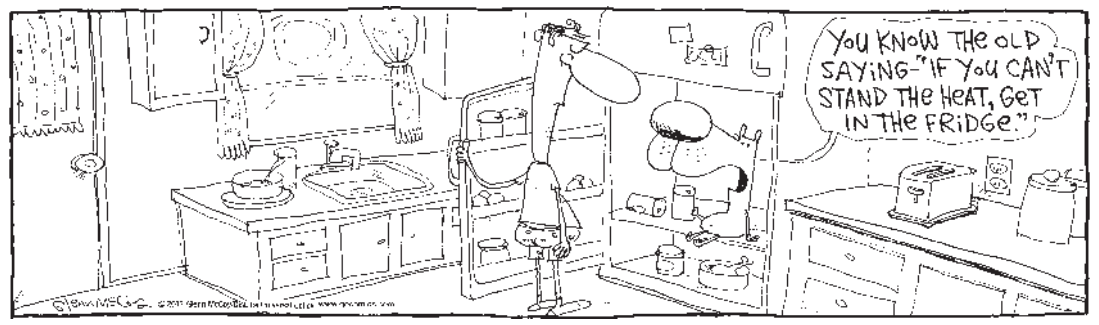
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE SHOULD WE GO ON DATE NIGHT? DINNER? MOVIE?
WHY NOT BOTH?
EXCELLENT. I'LL PICK THE MOVIE AND YOU PICK THE RESTAURANT.
UHH..OKAY. BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYTHING WITH KATE HUDSON, MEG RYAN OR JENNIFER ANISTON.
REALLY? THAT'S QUITE A LIST OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
EXACTLY. I DON'T WANT THEIR SELF-ESTEEM TO GET HURT WHEN YOU WALK IN THE THEATER.
8-7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Standard
5 Anatomical egg holder
8 "Wow!"
12 Do as you're told
13 Man-mouse link
14 Thought
15 Mess
17 Soccer score
18 Pod dweller
19 Wine city north of Lisbon
21 Lukewarm
24 Two-way
25 Ear-related
26 Find
30 Summer mo.
31 Doctrine
32 Historic time
33 One who takes your gun
35 Harness part
36 Out of play
37 Founded (on)
38 Gethsemane, e.g.
41 Coffee vessel
42 Elliptical
43 Catastrophe
48 Clinton's veep
49 Before
50 Unctuous
51 Unpaid
52 Old man
53 Same (Fr.)

DOWN
1 Affirmative action?
2 Sapporo sash
3 In medias —
4 Near-sighted
5 Pop
6 Exist
7 Live-it-up type
8 Paid escort
9 Smell
10 Membership
11 Head light?
16 Scarlet
20 Treaty
21 Frog's cousin
22 Needle holder
23 Swine
24 Ate in style
26 Insisted on
27 Flight formations
28 Great Lake
29 McNally's partner
31 46-Down, e.g.
34 Confused
35 Captor's cash
37 Lingerie item
38 — boots
39 Acknowledge
40 Exceptional
41 Second-hand
44 Playwright Levin
45 Cravat
46 Shade source
47 "Catcher in the —"

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	P	A		L	A	M	A	S		C	O	D
A	R	T		E	N	A	C	T		O	B	I
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	R		M	O	E
			I	V	F		R	F	A	M	F	D
B	E	C	K	E	T		B	A	L	I		
A	T	O		S	T	Y		M	E	T	R	O
S	U	M	S		E	A	R		S	T	E	P
H	I	M	O	M		K	E	G		E	A	T
		U	R	A	L		S	A	B	E	R	S
H	E	T	E	R	O		U	T	A			
A	V	E		C	O	M	M	O	T	I	O	N
T	A	R		O	S	I	E	R		S	H	E
F	N	S		S	F	N	D	S		M	O	W

Yesterday's answer 8-7

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
			18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
			36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52				53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abbie Cornish, 30; Charlize Theron, 37; David Duchovny, 52; Wayne Knight, 57.

Happy Birthday: Don't waste time procrastinating. Size up your situation and strategize while moving forward. Time is of the essence and must not become your demise. Believe in your ability and trust your instincts to lead you in the right direction. Travel, education and expansion of your interests will pay off. Make an effort and reap the rewards. Your numbers are 1, 8, 15, 22, 28, 35, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get together with people who share your interests or personal goals. Interviewing, forming a partnership and gathering information that will help you advance should be your plan. Keep things simple and solutions will follow. Make romantic plans. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Partner with someone trusted who will contribute to your plans. Develop your ideas and pursue projects you are passionate about. Deal with added responsibility like a pro and you will gain respect and the support you need to reach your goals. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You've got what it takes to reach your goals and charm everyone into supporting your efforts. Don't waste time procrastinating or giving someone the chance to beat you at what you do best. Be strong and maintain your status quo. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Ask questions. You can't fix what's wrong if you don't understand what's entailed. Emotional problems due to meddling can be expected. Don't let matters fester. Listen to complaints and do what's best for everyone. Secrets will lead to bigger problems. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Jump at any chance you get to try something new or observe a different way of living or doing things. Love is highlighted, and enjoying the company of someone special will lead to a better relationship. Generosity must be coupled with practicality. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't worry so much about getting your way emotionally when you should be focusing on sticking to a budget. Consider what someone wants and find a cost-efficient way to honor a commitment. Hard work and research will pay off. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): An open and honest discussion will help clear the air and further your goals. A change to the way you deal with someone will affect your performance and your productivity. Think big, but stay within your budget. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Downsize and lower your stress level. You need to feel free to indulge your creativity if you want to turn an important pursuit into a viable way to bring in more cash. Progressive action and travel will be necessary to advance. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Communicate and find out what's required to initiate an idea or plan. Don't jump from one thing to another or you will fall short of your expectations. A romantic encounter will be enticing, opportunistic and imbued with ulterior motives. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Professional and financial gains must not be ignored. Don't allow anyone to burden you with responsibilities that don't belong to you. Put your goals first. Strength and success come from taking care of your own business first. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20- Feb. 18*): A surprise will be encouraging. Friendship, loyalty and a good relationship with someone special will help you achieve your goals. Less stress coupled with a better lifestyle and surroundings will bring satisfaction and renewed enthusiasm. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19- March 20*): Look for any opportunity to advance. A partnership may appear lucrative but can upset your current situation. Excess and secrets will cost you in the end. Be upfront and express your feelings and intentions. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a unique, intelligent leader. You are reliable, popular and charming.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3	8			4	
		2		6			9	7
	6		2					
3		7						
4	5						7	9
						6		5
					6		1	
6	3			1		7		
	9			5	7			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	3	8	4	6	9	5	1
6	4	1	5	9	2	7	8	3
8	5	9	7	1	3	6	2	4
7	1	2	9	6	4	5	3	8
5	3	4	2	7	8	1	9	6
9	6	8	3	5	1	4	7	2
4	2	5	6	3	9	8	1	7
1	8	7	4	2	5	3	6	9
3	9	6	1	8	7	2	4	5

Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GIRLY PARTIES — Solution: 9 letters

S	E	S	C	C	C	R	E	V	O	E	K	A	M	W
N	L	T	H	R	U	D	N	E	I	R	F	O	O	D
O	A	U	A	O	E	R	U	T	C	I	P	M	V	E
L	E	F	M	L	E	C	L	O	T	H	E	S	I	C
A	T	A	P	B	O	S	P	E	S	N	E	Z	E	O
S	L	V	A	A	E	C	S	H	R	M	E	T	S	R
G	Ⓢ	O	G	R	M	R	O	G	O	S	S	I	P	A
P	Ⓐ	R	N	R	I	P	P	H	A	N	A	L	P	T
R	Ⓟ	S	E	E	S	A	E	A	C	B	D	G	N	I
I	Ⓢ	S	E	T	S	O	H	R	R	A	L	I	Y	O
N	I	G	H	T	O	U	T	D	N	T	T	I	D	N
C	C	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I	A	Y	I	N	Y
E	A	L	C	S	D	R	E	S	S	U	P	U	A	G
S	K	N	I	P	O	R	T	R	A	I	T	W	C	R
S	E	T	T	E	R	O	L	E	H	C	A	B	E	S

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Away, Bachelorette, Bags, Barrettes, Bling, Cake, Candy, Champagne, Chocolate, Clothes, Crafts, Curlers, Dance, Decoration, Dress Up, Favors, Food, Friend, Glamour, Glitz, Gossip, Hair, Home, Hostess, Ice Cream, Makeover, Movies, Night Out, Pamper, Picture, Pink, Plan, Portrait, Princess, Salon, Satin, Shoes, Shops, Slumber Party, Spas, Talks, Tea, Women

Yesterday's Answer: Landmark

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34, is available for $14.95 (including postage and handling) from Tribune Content Agency, P.O. Box 120190, Dept. 3400, Newport News, VA 23612. Call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480, to order by credit card. Or order online at www.uclick.com/puzbooks.

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Bradley wins at Firestone in a stunning turnaround

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Keegan Bradley never looked like a winner over four days and 71 holes at Firestone until he poured in a 15-foot par putt on the final hole Sunday.

Given the way golf has gone this year, no one should have been surprised.

Two weeks after Adam Scott gave up a four-shot lead with four holes to play in the British Open, Jim Furyk was poised to finish off a wire-to-wire win at the Bridgestone Invitational until he made double bogey from the middle of the 18th fairway.

His 5-foot bogey putt to at least get into a playoff never had a chance, and he immediately dropped his putter and bent over with a mixture of shock and disgust.

"I led the golf tournament the entire way and lost it on the very last hole," Furyk said. "To get that close and to know that I played more than good enough to win the golf tournament, and not close the door, is disappointing. It is a cruel game. I've lost some tournaments in some pretty poor fashions, but I don't think I've let one ever slip nearly as bad as this one. This was my worst effort to finish off an event."

Lost in his 18th hole collapse was a sterling performance by Bradley, who shot 31 on the back and came up with one clutch putt after another. None was bigger than the final stroke of his 6-under 64. After blasting out of a plugged lie in the bunker, he poured in a 15-foot putt for par that turned out to be the winner.

"I didn't think for a second I was going to miss it," Bradley said. "It was unbelievable. I got behind it, and I barely even had to read it. I knew the exact way it was going to break. I just needed to hit it hard enough. I knew that. And it was dead center."

Furyk led by one shot playing the 18th and got a huge break when his tee shot bounced out of the trees to the left and back into the fairway. That's where it all fell apart. His 7-iron went long, into a bunker and hopped out into the collar. He had to place his left foot in the sand to play a shot with the ball sitting up, and the delicate chip barely cleared the bunker and settled into more thick grass.

The chip for his fourth shot was a clunker, stopping 5 feet short of the pin, and the bogey putt was what Furyk called "my worst putt of the week."

Bradley won for the third time in his career, his last win coming a year ago at the PGA Championship. He became the 11th player to win a major and a World Golf Championship, and the win moved him to No. 4 in the Ryder Cup standings. With one week left to grab one of eight spots, he's all but assured of making his first team.

AP

Keegan Bradley watches his shot from the fairway on the 14th hole during the final round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012, in Akron, Ohio. Bradley won the tournament.

"My hope standing on the 18th tee was to make birdie and maybe force a playoff," Bradley said. "But you know, just from being out here, you just never know what's going to happen."

It was the 11th time this year—and fourth time in the last five weeks—that the winner came from at least four shots behind in the final round.

The ending was devastating for Furyk in so many ways.

He was tied for the lead at the U.S. Open with three holes to play when he hooked his tee shot on the 16th hole, made bogey and never caught up. This time, he was in control at Firestone from his opening 63, all the way through the final round when he started with three straight birdies and made an 18-foot birdie on the 16th to seemingly hold off the late charge by Bradley.

"I have no one to blame but myself," Furyk said. "But when things go wrong, it's an empty feeling. I'm disappointed. I walked over, my boy is crying right after the round. And I guess it reminds you as an adult—as a parent—that you have to act the proper way. You have to do and say the right things to try to give the right lessons.

"But there's no way I should have made any worse than 5 on the last hole," he said. "There's no way I should have done worse than a playoff."

He went from what appeared to be a certain win to a 69 and a tie for second with Steve Stricker, who made four birdies on his last five holes for a 64.

Bradley was four shots behind going into the final round, and was six shots back when Furyk opened with three straight birdies. Bradley kept pecking away at the lead, holing a 25-foot birdie putt on the seventh, scrambling for par on the 12th, and starting the back nine with a pair of birdies.

Furyk finally answered with an 18-foot birdie putt on the 16th, only for Bradley to follow him in for birdie from 12 feet. Bradley took only 12 putts on the back nine, including par saves on the final two holes.

He finished on 13-under 267.

Stricker found his putting stroke at Firestone—not that it was ever deep in hiding—and showed that down the stretch with his closing stretch of birdies. It was an important performance for Stricker, who moved up three spots to No. 10 in the Ryder Cup standings. Furyk is No. 11, followed by Rickie Fowler at No. 12.

Louis Oosthuizen closed with a 69 to finish alone in fourth. Justin Rose (67) and Rory McIlroy (68) were another shot behind.

Tiger Woods played bogey-free for a 66, his lowest score since a 65 in the second round at Bay Hill at the end of March. He was never in the tournament, 11 shots behind going into the final round.

Burnett shuts down Reds in Pirates' 6-2 win

CINCINNATI (AP)—A.J. Burnett remained undefeated against the Cincinnati Reds this season and Starling Marte hit a tiebreaking two-run triple in the fourth inning to help the Pittsburgh Pirates salvage the finale of their three-game series with a 6-2 win on Sunday.

Neil Walker hit a two-run homer and All-Star center fielder Andrew McCutchen added a solo shot as second-place Pittsburgh stopped Cincinnati's winning streak at five and closed within 4 1/2 games of the National League Central leader.

Burnett (14-3) allowed two runs and three hits in 8 2-3 innings, improving to 3-0 against the Reds this season.

Nationals 4, Marlins 1

In Washington, Stephen Strasburg (12-5) allowed just three hits over six shutout innings and drove in two runs as Washington downed Florida.

Strasburg struck out six and walked one, extending his scoreless streak against the Marlins to 27 innings.

Giants 8, Rockies 3

In Denver, Tim Lincecum won consecutive starts for the first time since April and Hunter Pence had three RBIs as San Francisco completed a three-game sweep and maintained a half-game lead over Los Angeles in the National League West.

The Giants had lost seven of eight games entering the series.

Dodgers 7, Cubs 6

In Los Angeles, Hanley Ramirez lined an RBI single over a drawn-in infield in the ninth as Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of Chicago.

Shawn Camp (2-5) walked Matt Kemp on four pitches with one out.

Braves 6, Astros 1

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones had two hits and scored the go-ahead run off a sixth-inning wild pitch by Bud Norris (5-9) as Atlanta completed an 8-2 homestand against Houston.

Jones added a run-scoring double off Xavier Cedeno in the seventh.

Phillies 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard singled home the winning run in the ninth inning off Josh Collmenter (3-3). He had been in a 5 for 35 slide with 20 strikeouts.

Jonathan Papelbon (3-4) pitched a scoreless ninth, stranding the go-ahead run on second.

Padres 7, Mets 3

In San Diego, Chase Headley and Yonder Alonso each hit two-run homers off rookie Matt Harvey (1-2) in San Diego's win over New York.

Headley's homer, his 15th, came in the first inning.

Cardinals 3, Brewers 0

In St. Louis, Kyle Lohse pitched six spotless innings to earn his 12th win as St. Louis beat Milwaukee for a three-game sweep.

Daniel Descalso had a season-high three hits for the Cardinals.

Tigers 10, Indians 8

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer to cap a five-run rally by Detroit with two outs in the 10th inning Sunday, giving the Tigers a 10-8 victory over Cleveland.

With the Indians up 8-5, Chris Perez (0-3) walked Alex Avila and pinch-hitter Andy Dirks.

White Sox 4, Angels 2

In Chicago, pinch-hitter A.J. Pierzynski equaled a White Sox record by homering in his fifth consecutive game, a two-run drive in the seventh inning off Jason Isringhausen (3-2) as Chicago downed Los Angeles.

Chicago took two of three in the weekend series and has won nine of 12 games.

Red Sox 6, Twins 4

In Boston, Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer and had three RBIs, and Carl Crawford added three singles, an RBI and a leaping catch on his 31st birthday as Boston beat Minnesota to avoid a four-game sweep.

Franklin Morales (3-2) gave up one run and three hits in six innings.

Yankees 6, Mariners 2

In New York, Raul Ibanez homered and drove in three runs as Freddy Garcia got his 150th career victory, just the sixth win for the Yankees in 16 games.

Garcia (5-5) hung around for five innings and preserved a one-run lead with his final pitch.

Royals 7, Rangers 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, errors by shortstop Alberto Gonzalez and third baseman Mike Olt in a three-pitch span allowed Kansas City to score the tie-breaking run against Texas in the 10th inning.

With the score 6-6, Michael Kirkman (0-2) walked Billy Butler leading off the 10th.

Orioles 1, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Taylor Teagarden broke out of a long slide with an RBI double in the 10th inning as Baltimore blanked Tampa Bay.

Joel Peralta (1-4) walked Mark Reynolds with one out in the 10th and threw a called third strike past Omar Quintanilla.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 5

In Oakland, California, Edwin Encarnacion hit a homer and drove in two runs, and Yunel Escobar also drove in two runs as Toronto salvaged a four-game split with Oakland.

Anthony Gose and Kelly Johnson also drove in runs for the Blue Jays.

Seahawks to bring Owens in for tryout

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Still looking for wide receiver help, the Seattle Seahawks are bringing Terrell Owens in for a tryout.

The Seahawks confirmed a report from KJR-AM in Seattle late Sunday night that Owens would be working out for the Seahawks on Monday. The team is off Monday before returning to practice Tuesday.

Owens hasn't played in the NFL since the 2010 season with Cincinnati when he caught 72 passes for 983 yards and nine touchdowns. The 38-year-old Owens didn't get any NFL offers to play last season after surgery on his left knee. He had 35 catches for 420 yards and 10 touchdowns while playing eight of 11 games for the Allen Wranglers of the Indoor Football League. He was released and lost an ownership stake in the team in May.

Meanwhile, in Ohio, Drew Brees produced a touchdown on his only try.

Pretty good weekend for the New Orleans Saints. And boy, did they need it.

Brees didn't need much time to top off a good visit, smoothly leading a touchdown drive in his only series Sunday night during a 17-10 victory over Arizona in the Hall of Fame game.

''Just to be up here and see all those guys get inducted and take a tour of the Hall of Fame, that was really special," said Mark Ingram, who scored the first touchdown on a 1-yard run. ''For us to all be here, it puts a lot of things into perspective going into this football season."

The game was canceled last year for the first time in 45 years, a casualty of the NFL's lockout of the players. Labor issues also came into play in Sunday night's game—the seven officials were replacements.

It showed.

The referee announced the result of the coin flip incorrectly—Craig Ochoa said the Saints won the toss and deferred, then caught his mistake and said the Cardinals had won the toss. There were some other communication problems as well for the first-time crew.

The win completed a good trip for the Saints (No. 9 in the AP Pro32), who needed a few smiles after their offseason dominated by their bounty scandal.

Murray sweeps Federer in gold medal game

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Andy Murray put his hands over his face when it was over, then crouched down as Centre Court roared. He quickly popped back up and went to the net to shake Roger Federer's hand.

One month after anguish at Wimbledon, it was elation in the Olympics - all in the same spot.

Murray used an aggressive approach to beat Federer 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 for the men's singles title, delighting a partisan crowd that had watched the dour Scotsman wilt in his biggest matches all too often.

Not this time.

Sunday's victory marked a career breakthrough for Murray. He has dropped all four of his Grand Slam finals, three against Federer, including the devastating loss at the All England Club a month ago.

"It has been the best week of my tennis career by a mile," Murray said. "I've had a lot of tough losses. This is the best way to come back from the Wimbledon final. I'll never forget it."

Murray won nine consecutive games to take control, breaking Federer's serve four times in a row. He erased all nine break points he faced.

"He never looked back," Federer said. "His credit for getting in the lead and using the crowd to come through. He did an unbelievable job."

Federer was going for a career Golden Slam but settled for silver—his first singles medal in his fourth Olympics.

"Don't feel too bad for me," he said. "I felt like I won my silver, I didn't lose it. So I feel really happy."

Murray became the first British man to win the gold in singles since Josiah Ritchie in 1908. He also picked up a silver in mixed doubles when he and Laura Robson lost to Victoria Azarenka and Max Mirnyi of Belarus 2-6, 6-3, 1-0 (8).

AP

Britain's Andy Murray, left, shakes hands with Switzerland's Roger Federer after the men's singles gold medal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon, in London, at the 2012 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012. Murray won the gold medal.

In the day's first match on Centre Court, women's singles champion Serena Williams teamed with sister Venus to win their third career doubles gold medal. They defeated Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-4 under the retractable roof.

Serena became tennis' first double gold medalist at an Olympics since Venus won singles and doubles at the 2000 Sydney Games. The sisters also won the doubles gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. And with Sunday's victory, each has a record four Olympic tennis gold medals.

"Crazy," Serena said. "I'm always copying her. I forgot that she did it in Sydney and I do it here. We're the same doubles team, we just split this to singles, so it's cool."

Mike Bryan won his second medal of the weekend when he and U.S. teammate Lisa Raymond took the bronze in mixed doubles, which was back in the Olympics for the first time since 1924. Bryan and his brother Bob won the gold in men's doubles Saturday.

Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova of Russia took the bronze in women's doubles, while Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina finished third in men's singles.

The focus for Murray and Co. now turns to the hard-court circuit leading up to the U.S. Open. But the Olympic experience had a captivating effect on many of the players.

"Every Olympics has been a life-changer for me," said Federer, who teamed with Swiss countryman Stanislas Wawrinka to win doubles gold in Beijing. "Good or bad, I think I took away a lot of positives, from the Olympic spirit, from the way, I don't know, you appreciate other sports, appreciate winning, losing."

The world No. 1 said he had tears in his eyes after a tight first-round victory at the Olympics, and then felt emotionally exhausted after a marathon semifinal win against del Potro, who wept after the third set went Federer's way, 19-17. The big Argentinian was crying again Sunday, this time with happiness, after defeating Novak Djokovic for the bronze medal.

"I don't have the words to explain," Del Potro said. "It's similar to winning a Grand Slam (title) or maybe even bigger."

Federer said the draining semifinal "might have cost him" against Murray, though he praised the Briton for executing a forceful game plan that stopped him from getting his "teeth" into the match.

And, it turns out, last month's loss to Federer played a key part in the Olympic victory. Murray won the first set of the Wimbledon final and had chances in the second. He found himself in the same place Sunday, only this time he converted those opportunities.

"I'm starting to find a way of treating every single point exactly the same throughout the whole match," he said. "When you do that, you tend to play better for longer in the match."

US-Canada means Abby vs Sincy in Olympics semis

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—In the chase for Mia Hamm's world record, Abby Wambach leads by two.

The veteran forward has 142 goals for the U.S. women's soccer team. Christine Sinclair has scored 140 for Canada. If Hamm's mark of 158 falls any time soon, it will go to one of the two players who have battled countless times over the last decade, a scenario that's more likely after Wambach's announcement Sunday that she's feeling more confident about playing another four years.

On Monday, Abby and "Sincy" will meet again amid the biggest stakes ever for a U.S.-Canada match—a place in the gold medal game at the London Olympics.

"You're talking about two fantastic players," Canada coach John Herdman said, "people who will turn into legends when they retire."

While Wambach has been well-feted worldwide in her career, Sinclair is often referred to as the most underrated player in the game. That's because Wambach is the opinionated leader of a team that wins titles, while Sinclair is a private person who for years has toiled for a national squad searching for its first big breakthrough.

A win over the U.S. would guarantee Canada its first top-three finish at an Olympics or World Cup, not to mention the country's first Summer Games medal in a traditional team sport—not counting rowing or equestrian—since a men's basketball silver in 1936.

"I think that getting to the semis in the Olympic Games is validation for her and what she's been able to do for her country over the past decade," Wambach said. "I do believe that this is not about Abby vs. Christine Sinclair. This is about United States vs. Canada. We want to show that we play good soccer, and we want to show that our defense is good enough to stop one of the best goal-scorers in the world.

"If we can shut down Christine Sinclair, I think we're going to have a good day."

The Canadians haven't beaten the Americans in 11 years—a span of 26 games—but they've improved in recent years by giving Sinclair some help. With Sinclair drawing attention from defenders—and with Herdman frequently using her as more of an attacking midfielder—it's been Melissa Tancredi who has led the team with four goals in the tournament. Sinclair has three.

"Christine, for me, she's like a Rolls-Royce," Herdman said. "She just floats around the pitch, and everything about her is class, as a person on the pitch, off the pitch."

So what kind of automobile is Wambach?

"A bit of everything, really," Herdman said. "But she's got to be stopped. She's got a Ferrari alongside her, and that causes a few more problems."

Herdman was referring to Alex Morgan, the speedy American who has two goals in the tournament. Wambach has four—one in each game—and says she's playing pain-free after battling Achilles tendinitis for about three years. Her desire to keep playing until the next World Cup and Olympics has been in question because of her ailing legs, but she's now more optimistic.

US men's basketball team gears up for Argentina

LONDON (AP)—Carmelo Anthony doesn't want to mess around against Argentina. Not after the close call against Lithuania.

Anthony, LeBron James, Kobe Bryant and the rest of the star-studded U.S. basketball team have now been tested at the London Olympics - and, admittedly, they weren't quite prepared for it.

The NBA's best players face another challenge Monday night when they wrap up pool play against the Argentines, who at 3-1 are not to be underestimated. Anthony acknowledged the Americans might have been caught slightly off guard by Lithuania's fight in a five-point victory Saturday.

"It was a little bit tighter than what we expected," Anthony said before practice Sunday. "Lithuania was focused, and it kind of caught us on our heels. We won't get caught on our heels again."

U.S. basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski is counting on more from Bryant as the stakes become higher, too. He had only six points, two rebounds, an assist and three fouls in 20 minutes against Lithuania.

It's James, the NBA MVP from the champion Miami Heat, carrying the load and his country's hopes of a dominant run resembling the one by the 1992 Dream Team of Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Larry Bird.

James showed the world he can be unstoppable in crunch time. And everybody on the U.S. squad hopes his performance will provide some nice momentum going into the next game.

With the U.S. leading by one late, James hit a 3-pointer, then followed with a dunk off a turnover to put his team ahead 92-86 with 3:41 to play. He also scored two more baskets over the final 2:10 and wound up with nine of the Americans' final 12 points and 20 in all.

This dynamic, high-flying bunch insists the accomplishments of those former NBA greats are far from their minds at the moment.

The first priority is locking up a No. 1 seed from their pool heading into the quarterfinal rounds and a move from Olympic Park to the soon-to-be-vacated gymnastics venue.

Argentina, meanwhile, is coming off Saturday's 93-79 win over Nigeria and led by as many as 26. The roster features the likes of well-known NBA names Luis Scola and Manu Ginobili.

James is all for the idea of getting back to basics.

"We have to defend and we have rebound. It's a very good team and we look forward to the challenge," he said. "They play as a team and that's what it's all about. They move the ball you know and they play together so that has to do about why they continue to be successful."

France handed the Argentines their lone blemish with a stunning 71-64 victory last Tuesday in the second game of Olympic preliminary play. Otherwise, Argentina has looked like a contender.

"First of all, we respect them guys, most importantly," Anthony said. "But then again, we go out there trying to win by any means necessary. They're trying to do the same things."

James put it more simply.

"We don't come here to lose," he said.

Lilipuching, DJ Fish lead SEDA's B leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Lilapuching and DJ Fish came away as the early frontrunners in Saipan Electronic Dart Association's B Flame Tree and B Fanihi divisions after the 2012 Summer/ Fall Bud Light Dart League season opening matches last week.

Lilapuching routed Joe's Steakhouse's Dart K'nhytes, 12-3, at home for an early lead in the standings, while Jonny's Bar & Grill's Kyodai sits just two games back in second place, following a strong10-5 home victory over Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Team Exotic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Lilapuching pose for a group photo during a break in their first game in the SEDA league last week.

Coming in at third are Joe's Real Deal and Sand's Bar's Refalauan's, which grinded out similar 8-7 wins over Bammy's Tok'Ka Hao and VFW post 3457's Dutty Gunz, respectively.

Notables include a 152 High-In by Kyodai's Tony Tomokane.

DJ Fish trampled Es'y Kitchen's Kitchen Darters, 12-3, on the road and nabbed first place in B Fanihi, just one game ahead of VFW's Naughty Boyz, which overcame the Shooters, 11-4, in a road match held at Oceanside Bar & Grill.

Naked Fish's Na'Gupu is tied for third place with Es'y's Taya Guaha, as the two squads bagged identical 8-7 wins over Jonny's Rehab and Joe's One-shot, respectively,

Notables include a 120 High-In by Rehab's Nick Muna.

In the inter-government league, DPS Bad Boys of SOS Bar & Grill took the early reigns after winning its season debut last Friday.

DPS Bad Boys triumphed over Naked Fish's CRMO Primos, 9-6, at home and lead Jonny's DPL Sakude III, which minced a close 8-7 home win over Bammy's CUC Power Plant. Naked Fish's NMC Proa completes the field, but had a bye last week.

Notables include a 113 High-Out by CRMO Primos' Jayson John.

ANJIE

From Page 28

caging standouts Eugene Manglona, Sahj Hossain, and Ezra Caro, Anjie's Boys pulled away in the third period, as it outgunned Gualo Rai, 18-7, to turn a slim 29-27 halftime lead to a 47-34 advantage. Manglona led the breakaway, firing 8 in the third canto.

Manglona, who sizzled for 35 points in their 71-68 debut win over QQ Rent A Car last week, was still hot in the fourth quarter, nailing 5 of their first 7 points in that period and later canned crucial free throws to foil Gualo Rai's repeated comeback bids. Anjie's Boys made six free throws in the homestretch to preserve the win and two of them came from Hossain, who finished with 11 markers.

Ezra Caro was the third Anjie's Boys player to tally double digits with his 12 points, drilling 8 of them in the first half. Anjie's Boys led at the end of each of the first two quarters with Caro and Hossain doing the damage on offense and drawing support from their other teammates.

Caro, Hossain, and Manglona teamed up in Anjie's Boys' first 13 points, while Jimmy Tudela came off the bench and contributed early with back-to-back baskets to give the team its biggest lead in the opening canto, 17-10.

The veteran and depleted crew of Gualo Rai struggled on offense with only JP Jose and Alex Lauron making more than two points in the first eight minutes of play. On defense, the bigger, but slower Gualo Rai frontliners could not keep up with Anjie's Boys fastbreak plays.

Gualo Rai tried to exploit its advantage in the post, but had little success with only Lauron consistently making inside baskets. Fellow big men Marlon Cabrera and Zack Diaz combined for only six markers.

Lauron ended up as the lone Gualo Rai player to score in twin digits with his 19 markers. Victory Mallari managed only 9 and was held to one field goal in the second half after a decent shooting in the first half.

Anjie's Boys 62 – Manglona 20, E. Caro 12, Hossain 11, Javier 5, Tudela 4, Mettao 3, T. Caro 2.

Gualo Rai 53 – Lauron 19, Mallari 9, Josep 7, Dayrit 6, Diaz 4, Babauta 2, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13, 29-27, 47-34, 62-53

WILD

From Page 28

Unsa made two and one, as Wild Bill's opened a big 7-0 advantage.

Shirley's avoided a shutout when Taro Goto scored in the second half, while Wild Bill's was still at it, adding eight more goals. Detdon stole the thunder from Thoensaket in the second half with the former making a hat-trick against the latter's two goals. Unsa had a pair of goals, too, in the second half, while Khamka also lit up the scoreboard in the final frame.

Wild Bill's has one more game left in the double-round robin league and was scheduled to face the second-running Godfather's last night. A win over Godfather's (6-0-1) will ensure Wild Bill's the men's championship.

WOMEN'S
Wild Bill's 3, Baked Girls 0

Wild Bill's had twin celebrations last Friday, as it also prevailed in the women's division, beating Baked Girls.

Sara Allen nailed two goals for Wild Bill's while Bunrung Brasuell made the other goal. Wild Bill's now has 5-2-1 record to tie Shirley's in first place in the women's division. Baked Girls, which a few weeks ago had the lead, fell to third place with its 3-1-4 slate, two wins behind the second-running Xerox (5-1-3). IT&E Awesome (3-1-5) and Mellow Yellow (0-1-7) complete the women's field, which also has a double-round robin format.

The winner of the women's league will be the No. 1 finisher in the team standings after 10 games.

BOYS U18
Thundercats 7, Mean Machine 3

The Thundercats had a repeat against Mean Machine in the lone boys U18 match played last weekend.

Four players scored for the Thundercats for a fitting follow-up of their 10-1 demolition of Mean Machine last week. The Thundercats improved to a 4-0-3 record and remain in second place behind the unbeaten Astig Futsal (6-0-0). Mean Machine has yet to win in eight games to stay in last place behind the third-ranked IT&E (3-0-2).

Zhi Peng Lin led the Thundercats' back-to-back wins with his hat-trick, while Timothy Tawanpiy had a pair of goals, and Makani Gramlich and Don Cabrera chipped in one each.

Mean Machine got one goal each from Mark King and Dale Ballesteros to stay in the game at the break, 2-3. However, only Angelo Guevarra scored in the second half and Mean's Machine's drought continued.

BOLT

From Page 28

ply had to be satisfied with the second-fastest time in history—9.63 seconds—another gold medal and, of course, the comfort of knowing he'll have another chance to rewrite the record book very soon.

Undeterred from his goal of becoming a "living legend," Bolt returns to Olympic Stadium on Monday to receive his medal. A day later, he'll begin running in his favorite race, the 200.

His victory in the 100 on Sunday against training partner Yohan Blake, Americans Justin Gatlin and Tyson Gay and the rest of the star-studded field promptly and emphatically shut down all the questions about his fitness and dedication - questions that only grew louder after losses to Blake in both sprints five weeks ago at Jamaica's Olympic trials.

"At the trials, when Yohan Blake beat me, twice, it woke me up, opened my eyes," Bolt said. "It was like he come, knocked on my door and say, `It's an Olympic year, are you ready?' I just really refocused and got everything together and came back ready."

In their first rematch, Bolt beat Blake by 0.12 seconds - a comfortable margin but hardly wide enough to ignore his countryman and training partner, who is more than three years younger and pushing him in ways few people thought possible.

When the 200 heats start Tuesday, Bolt again figures to get his biggest challenge from Blake, the runner he nicknamed "The Beast." Bolt's world record is 19.19, but Blake has the second-fastest mark at 19.25.

Blake said there was no shame in losing to a man like Bolt. And, like Bolt, he doesn't consider this Olympics anywhere near over.

"I'm not disappointed," Blake said. "Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. You never know what can happen. I think the 200 meters will be interesting."

American Wallace Spearmon should be the other prime contender in that race.

In the 100, it was Gatlin and Gay who've been crisscrossing the world, trying to convince themselves and anyone else who would listen that they stood a chance against The World's Fastest Man.

Gay, who has worked hard to recover from right hip surgery over the last year, was crying hard after the race. Inconsolable.

"I tried my best. I came up short. That's all I had," he said.

Gatlin was more moved by the occasion than sad about finishing third. The 2004 Olympic gold medalist served a four-year doping ban that kept him out of the Beijing Games and he has fought hard since his return to restore both his reputation and his form. All the while, he kept perspective about how the sprint world had changed in the time he was away.

NMI BETS

From Page 28

Fiji's Mulan Kamoe, 6-3, 6-4.

Over at the Nadi Sports Club, the Pool B top-seeded Lee debuted with a 7-5, 6-2 win over Fiji's Vienna Kumar. The CNMI bet was then paired against Guam's Kanasta Abrams and recorded a sterling 6-0, 6-0 victory.

Lee's teammate, Heras, is in Pool A and needed three sets to pull off a debut win over Papua New Guinea's Bianca Terra, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4. Her second match was an easier one, as Heras swept American Samoa's Blanchie Herrera, 6-2, 6-1.

Luther Lizama is also playing in the U12 age group and split his first two assignments. The lone CNMI entry to the boys U12 singles won his debut in the POJC after thwarting Kiribati's Lataisi Mwea, 6-3, 7-6 (3), before bowing to Tahiti's Reynald Taaroa, 4-6, 0-6, in the second match in Pool B.

Also recording a 1-1 slate in Day 1 was U18's Christian Miller, who is debuting in the highest age group of the POJC. The 17-year-old CNMI bet eked out a tough 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1 victory in his Pool B match over the Cook Islands' Tamarua Payne before dropping his second game of the day against Norkfolk Island's James Elliot, 5-7, 2-6.

Meanwhile, two other Commonwealth netters had rough starts in Fiji after faltering in their first two games.

Chris Cajigan went 0-2 in the boys U15 after losing to Christopher Shan, 7-5, 1-6, 3-6, and Kiribati's Tabera Bonteman, 0-6, 0-2. In the girls U18, Thea Minor bowed to Fiji's Annie Shannon, 2-6, 2-6, and Vanuatu's Lorraine Bainimataku, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

OLYMPIC GAMES MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	China	30	17	14	61
2	United States	28	14	18	60
3	Great Britain	16	11	10	37
4	Russia	4	16	15	35
5	Japan	2	12	13	27
6	France	8	8	9	25
7	Germany	5	10	7	22
8	South Korea	10	4	6	20
9	Australia	1	12	7	20
10	Italy	6	5	3	14
11	Canada	1	3	6	10
12	Hungary	4	1	3	8
13	Netherlands	3	1	4	8
14	Denmark	2	4	2	8
14	Romania	2	4	2	8
16	New Zealand	3	0	4	7
17	Belarus	2	2	3	7
18	Ukraine	2	0	5	7
19	Brazil	1	1	5	7
20	Kazakhstan	6	0	0	6
21	North Korea	4	0	1	5
22	Cuba	2	2	1	5
23	Czech Republic	1	3	1	5
24	Kenya	1	2	2	5
25	Mexico	0	3	2	5
26	South Africa	3	1	0	4
27	Jamaica	2	1	1	4
27	Poland	2	1	1	4
29	Sweden	1	3	0	4
30	Slovenia	1	1	2	4
31	Colombia	0	3	1	4
32	Slovakia	0	1	3	4
33	Ethiopia	2	0	1	3
34	Spain	0	2	1	3
35	Azerbaijan	0	1	2	3
35	India	0	1	2	3
37	Croatia	1	1	0	2
37	Switzerland	1	1	0	2
39	Iran	1	0	1	2
39	Lithuania	1	0	1	2
41	Armenia	0	1	1	2
41	Belgium	0	1	1	2
41	Indonesia	0	1	1	2
41	Mongolia	0	1	1	2
41	Norway	0	1	1	2
41	Serbia	0	1	1	2
47	Greece	0	0	2	2
47	Moldova	0	0	2	2
49	Georgia	1	0	0	1
49	Venezuela	1	0	0	1
51	Taiwan	0	1	0	1
51	Egypt	0	1	0	1
51	Guatemala	0	1	0	1
51	Malaysia	0	1	0	1
51	Thailand	0	1	0	1
56	Argentina	0	0	1	1
56	Hong Kong	0	0	1	1
56	Qatar	0	0	1	1
56	Singapore	0	0	1	1
56	Tunisia	0	0	1	1
56	Uzbekistan	0	0	1	1

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	63	44	.589	–
Baltimore	57	51	.528	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	56	52	.519	7 1/2
Boston	54	55	.495	10
Toronto	53	55	.491	10 ½

Central Division

Chicago	59	48	.551	–
Detroit	58	50	.537	1 1/2
Cleveland	50	58	.463	9 1/2
Minnesota	47	61	.435	12 1/2
Kansas City	45	62	.421	14

West Division

Texas	63	44	.589	–
Oakland	58	50	.537	5 1/2
Los Angeles	58	51	.532	6
Seattle	51	59	.464	13 ½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	65	43	.602	–
Atlanta	62	46	.574	3
New York	53	56	.486	12 1/2
Philadelphia	49	59	.454	16
Miami	49	60	.450	16 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	66	42	.611	–
Pittsburgh	61	46	.570	4 1/2
St. Louis	58	49	.542	7 1/2
Milwaukee	48	58	.453	17
Chicago	43	63	.406	22
Houston	36	73	.330	30 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	59	49	.546	–
Los Angeles	59	50	.541	1/2
Arizona	55	53	.509	4
San Diego	46	64	.418	14
Colorado	38	68	.358	20

BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL SCORES

AKRON, Ohio (AP)–Scores Sunday from the $8.5 million Bridgestone Invitational at the Firestone Country Club (7,400-yard, par-70, South Course):

FINAL

Keegan Bradley, $1,400,000	67-69-67-64	–267
Jim Furyk, $665,000	63-66-70-69	–268
Steve Stricker, $665,000	68-68-68-64	–268
Louis Oosthuizen, $365,000	67-65-68-69	–269
Rory McIlroy, $276,500	70-67-67-68	–272
Justin Rose, $276,500	70-69-66-67	–272
Jason Dufner, $210,000	67-66-73-68	–274
Aaron Baddeley, $128,750	73-66-71-66	–276
K.J. Choi, $128,750	71-72-67-66	–276
Luke Donald, $128,750	66-69-71-70	–276
Matt Kuchar, $128,750	70-70-70-66	–276
Lee Slattery, $128,750	65-71-72-68	–276
David Toms, $128,750	68-67-73-68	–276
Bo Van Pelt, $128,750	70-69-66-71	–276
Tiger Woods, $128,750	70-72-68-66	–276
Simon Dyson, $90,000	66-71-70-70	–277
John Senden, $90,000	66-70-69-72	–277
Kyle Stanley, $90,000	69-73-68-67	–277
Bill Haas, $82,000	67-71-70-70	–278
Dustin Johnson, $82,000	69-68-73-68	–278
Scott Piercy, $82,000	69-70-70-69	–278
Nick Watney, $82,000	69-70-72-67	–278
Bubba Watson, $82,000	66-73-72-67	–278
K.T. Kim, $74,500	67-67-74-71	–279
Graeme McDowell, $74,500	70-67-70-72	–279
Geoff Ogilvy, $74,500	67-70-72-70	–279
Charl Schwartzel, $74,500	69-75-72-63	–279
Carl Pettersson, $72,000	67-70-71-72	–280
Rafael Cabrera Bello, $68,000	66-65-77-73	–281
Jason Day, $68,000	75-70-70-66	–281
Sergio Garcia, $68,000	67-72-71-71	–281
Retief Goosen, $68,000	67-72-73-69	–281
Martin Kaymer, $68,000	68-72-72-69	–281
Martin Laird, $68,000	68-72-68-73	–281
Ian Poulter, $68,000	74-69-69-69	–281
Jamie Donaldson, $62,500	68-73-75-66	–282
Branden Grace, $62,500	72-70-66-74	–282
Johnson Wagner, $62,500	71-74-68-69	–282
Y.E. Yang, $62,500	69-71-74-68	–282
Thomas Bjorn, $59,000	71-70-74-68	–283
Zach Johnson, $59,000	68-73-68-74	–283
Francesco Molinari, $59,000	74-70-69-70	–283
Phil Mickelson, $56,500	71-69-73-71	–284
Alvaro Quiros, $56,500	70-71-72-71	–284
Nicolas Colsaerts, $53,000	73-68-74-70	–285
Ernie Els, $53,000	73-73-68-71	–285
Marc Leishman, $53,000	70-72-70-73	–285
Adam Scott, $53,000	71-70-71-73	–285
Mark Wilson, $53,000	72-71-73-69	–285
Ryo Ishikawa, $49,000	71-72-70-73	–286
Fredrik Jacobson, $49,000	71-73-73-69	–286
Paul Lawrie, $49,000	72-68-74-72	–286
Brandt Snedeker, $49,000	71-70-70-75	–286
Danny Willett, $49,000	72-74-73-67	–286
Jonathan Byrd, $46,500	73-73-69-72	–287
Greg Chalmers, $46,500	71-75-71-70	–287
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano, $46,500	71-73-70-73	–287
Hunter Mahan, $46,500	73-73-69-72	–287
Bernd Wiesberger, $46,500	70-71-74-72	–287
Rickie Fowler, $44,500	70-80-69-69	–288
Yoshinori Fujimoto, $44,500	73-74-71-70	–288
Marcel Siem, $44,500	76-71-70-71	–288
Peter Hanson, $43,500	73-71-71-74	–289
Joost Luiten, $43,500	72-71-77-69	–289
Kevin Na, $43,500	72-76-72-69	–289
Sang-Moon Bae, $43,000	72-66-76-76	–290
Toshinori Muto, $42,625	73-71-73-74	–291
Jeev Milkha Singh, $42,625	73-74-71-73	–291
Robert Allenby, $42,250	73-79-72-68	–292
Lee Westwood, $42,000	68-72-81-73	–294
Michael Hoey, $41,625	78-75-70-72	–295
Robert Rock, $41,625	76-72-74-73	–295
Ted Potter, Jr., $41,250	72-72-75-80	–299
Tom Lewis, $41,000	78-76-74-73	–301
Oliver Bekker, $40,750	77-72-76-77	–302

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 DLX/DL JOS Basketball League Awardees

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players of Mawati receive the third place award.

JOS Corporation manager Joe Digno, left, hands Irish Spring's Ric Brien the fourth place trophy.

KFC/Taco Bell's Raymark Castro, second left, and Jomary Tumaquip, third left, share the Best Coach plum. Also in the photo is referee Pando Muleta.

KFC/Taco Bell's Jeff Durant shows his Finals MVP trophy.

Regular season MVP Ralph Francisco, center, of KFC/Taco Bell shows his trophies.

Wushin's Sonny Ebuen receives the Team Sportsmanship Award.

Players of KFC/Taco Bell hoist the championship trophy after defeating Team Pogi, 68-49, in the finals of the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Players and coaches of Team Pogi pose with their runner-up trophy.

The Mythical Team members pose with organizers and volunteers of the DLX league.

Bradley wins at Firestone in a stunning turnaround

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Murray sweeps Federer in gold medal game

PAGE 25

6 NMI bets unbeaten in POCJ opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's girls U15 and U12 team got off to a rousing start in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday in Fiji.

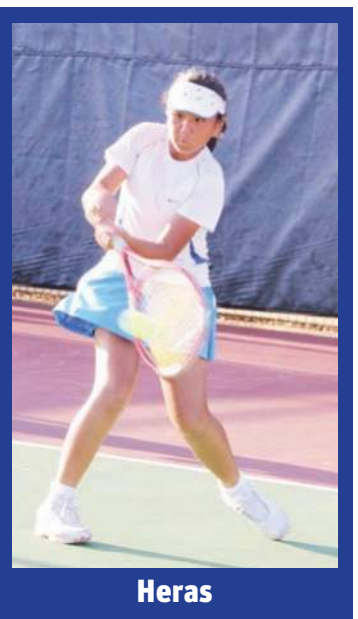
Mikayla Lopez, Negahr Rastguiy, and Tammy Ackerman swept their first two games in the girls U15 singles, while Carol Lee and Isabel Heras also went 2-0 in Day 1 of the POJC, which is being played at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka and the Nadi Sports Club in Nadi.

Duplicating the girls U15 and U12 team's perfect records in the opening day was boys U18's Rafael Jones.

Jones debuted against Fiji's Krishneel Kumar in Lautoka and nailed a straight set win, 7-5, 6-0, in the 8:30am match that lasted for only 42 minutes. Jones had his second match at 10am yesterday and he easily downed Cook Island's Roland Neuruer, 6-2, 6-1, to grab a share of the early lead with Vanuatu's Gregory Jacoby in the six-player Pool A.

Ackerman

Jones



Heras

Rastguiy

Lee

Lopez

Rastguiy is also in Pool A of the girls U15 singles draw and had a walk in the park in her first match of the day, beating the Solomon Islands' Georgimah Row, 6-0, 6-1. Rastguiy's second win was also a straight set one, as she swept New Caledonia's Olanza Matuu, 6-1, 6-4.

Joining Rastguiy in the early lead in Pool A of the girls U15 singles draw was teammate Lopez, who also did not drop a single set in the opening day of the Fiji tournament. Lopez, who advanced to the girls U15 semis last year, posted a 6-4, 6-0 triumph over Matuu and then kept her perfect record after a 6-1, 6-1 victory over American Samoa' s Charity Sagiao.

Last year's U12 champion Ackerman was a wild card entry in Pool B of the girls U15 draw and made her presence felt in the higher age group with an impressive 2-0 card. She dropped her the first set of her opening match against Palau's Ayana Rengiil, 4-6, but swept the last two sets, 6-2, 6-3, to win the almost three-hour match. In her second game at the RTC in Lautoka, Ackerman cruised past

See NMI BETS on Page 26

Wild Bill's extends streak to six

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wild Bill's kept its perfect record in the men's division of the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League after whipping Shirley's Coffee Shop, 15-1, last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The streaking Wild Bill's is undefeated in six games to boost its title bid, while Shirley's fell to a 1-0-5 win-draw-loss record to drop to the last spot in the five-team field.

Jack Thoensaket was business as usual for Wild Bill's last weekend, as he exploded for six goals. Adul Detdon and Tanapon Unsa added three apiece, while Konkoed and Kai Khamka contributed two and one, respectively.

Thoensaket drained four of his total goals in the first half, while Konkoed and

See WILD on Page 26

Anjie's Boys bags second straight win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The young guns prevailed over the seasoned veterans, as Anjie's Boys' downed Gualo Rai, 62-53, in the late night game in the 2012 DLX/ Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The victory was second in as many games for the young crew of Angie's Boys, while Gualo Rai faltered in its debut. Angie's Boys and Gualo Rai are in Pool B of the 18-team league with the former getting the early lead in its group.

Bannered by former MISO

See ANJIE on Page 26

Anjie's Boys' Ezra Caro pulls up for a jumper against Gualo Rai's Marlon Cabrera during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

AP

Jamaica's Usain Bolt, front, sprints towards the finish line to win the men's 100-meter final race ahead of Jamaica's Yohan Blake, half hidden, Tyson Gay from the U.S., second in red, Jamaica's Asafa Powell, center in yellow, Ryan Bailey from the U.S.. third from right rear, Trinidad's Richard Thompson. second right, and Churandy Martina from the Netherlands, right, during the athletics competition in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London, Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012.

Bolt's Olympic party may only be beginning

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Legs churning fast, arms swinging high, Usain Bolt finally made it to warp speed a few steps past the halfway point of the Olympic 100 meters. Emerging from behind, he put clear daylight between himself and the field.

Now he was racing against the clock, not the competition.

"Then, I thought, `World record,'" Bolt said. "But it was too late to do anything about it."

And so the Jamaican sim-

See BOLT on Page 26